(7)

A Famous tragicall discourse of two louers, Affrican, and Menſola, their liues infortunate loues, and lamentable deaths, together with the of-ſpring of the Florentines.

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¶ *A Hiſtory no leſſe pleaſant then full of recreation and delight.*

Newly tranſlated out of Tuſcan into French by Anthony Guerin, domino Creſte.

¶ And out of French into Engliſh by Io. Goubourne.

AT LONDON
Printed by *Ia. R.* for William Blackman dwelling neere the great North doore of Paules. 1597.

AT LONDON
Printed by Ia. R. for William Blackburn
dwelling neere the great North doore
of Paules. 1592.

To the vertuous Gentleman Maister Frauncis Verſeline, I. G. wiſheth continuall health and perfect happines.

BYAS the Philoſopher, flying his Country depopulate with cruell warres, being demaunded why he left his goods for a pray to the enemies ſpoyle, aunſwered: My learning is all, and that I haue, which no man can take from me, the reſt are in mine enemies power: Euen ſo likewiſe (Gentleman), your curteſies being great, my deſerts little and means leſſe, to requite the leaſt fauour you haue ſhewed mee, this onely is left, which is all I haue (to wit) my poore good will, deuoted wholy to your vertues, and ready to acknowledge your kindnes with all thankfulnes; which to manifeſt in ſome part (as my poore talent will afford) I haue preſumed to preſent you with this little Pamphlet, tranſlated out of French into our vulgar tongue, at the ſpeciall inſtance of ſundry Gentlemen, whereof I craue acceptance, not in regard of the gift (being of ſmall moment nor the ſtile therof, which is ragged, bare, aud barren:) but the good minde of the giuer, as forward in affection towards you, as his abillity is ſmall in performance. So fare you hartily well.

Yours as your curteſies haue bound him,

I. G.

TO THE READERS HEALTH and continuall happines.

THE trauell I haue taken (friendly Reader) to tranſlate this Hiſtory, was not any way to praiſe or profite my ſelfe, but onely to recreate and delight euery gentle mind, curious to ſee and vnderſtand each ſtrange noueltie; For whoſe content, this ſmall Treatiſe happening to my hands, formerlie cõpiled in Tuſcan meeter, by Mr. Iohn Bocace a Florentine Poet, contayning a briefe diſcourſe of loue, made by a young Floſſolan Sheepheard to one of Dianas Nimphs, their famous ſucceſsion, with the of-ſpring of the Florentines, and the foundation of their Citty. I attempted to tranſlate ſome part thereof, for mine owne recreation, more then any deſire I had to publiſh the ſame: But ſince, at the earneſt requeſt of ſome (who had power to commaund me) I proſecuted my attempt to the end. Accept then (curteous Reader) this ſmall worke, as friendly as I preſent it willingly, and defend the ſame (if you pleaſe) againſt ſuch momes as more readily reproue others actions, then amend their owne faults any way. And if thou liſt to ieſt at my labour, that (hauing better meanes) I haue applyed my ſtudie to a thing ſo baſe and vnprofitable: conſider (I pray thee) how the famous Grecian Homer hath

ſpent

ſpent many houres and dayes to write the warres of Rats and Frogs, Virgill his Priapus, Petrarcke, the amours of his Laura, Hyphigineus his ſpring time, and many more great and ancient perſons, (who for breuite ſake I paſſe ouer in particuler) haue written ſuch like things. Moreouer, amongſt the late writers, thou ſhalt finde alſo ſome thing in their bookes very fooliſh, rediculous, and vntrue, though they them ſelues were wiſe, learned, & of good account: and ſhall I then, (which can equall them no way) let to imitate their actions? I feare me there be ſome to brutiſhly minded that will affirme I: But I care not, ſeeing my tranſlation I preſent not to them, but to euery gentle mind affecting vertue. And if any will charge me to haue vſed a language vneloquent, rude and vnſeemely, let them doe me (I pray) this fauour, that before they vomit out their poyſoned liquor of enuie towards me, the moſt forward that way, may take pen in hand, and hauing firſt done better, let him then correct me (if he pleaſe) elſe let him vſe ſilence, or gentlie defend and excuſe my fault: proceeding (it may be) from a feruent deſire I haue to pleaſe thee. Take then in worth (gentle Reader) this ſmall labour as the firſt fruites of my endeuour, which ſhall ſerue for part of the whole worke I haue ready to ſhewe thee: and pleaſe thee (at the leaſt) in regard of the ſubiect which is great and full of delight, ſuch as may well content thee, and preſent it ſelfe freely to the eyes of thy diſcretion.

A P

The Author desireth the fauour of his Mistris in his ayde to the effecting of this Booke, and the like of all amorous Ladies for defence of his work, against the slaunderers therof.

THE sacred loue long seated in the center of my hart, in fauour of one (whose sole remembrance bereaues my quiet rest) hath caused me to aduenture this present trauaile: and take pen in hand, to discourse an Historie verie auncient, but pleasant, full of delight and worthy your hearing: to the ende that each one knowing the subtill sleights of Cupid, might learne to eschew his Darts, and sharpe pointed arrowes, yeelding at the first a poysoned sweete, pleasant, and inuisible: but once wounded, the sweetnes becomes meere rage, bereauing him of sence, memory, and vnderstanding that feeles it: And with like care to extinguish the hote burning and pestilent fier of that Goddesse his Mother, sole enemie to Chastitie. Now seeing this little God, so well knowne of all men, is the principall subiect of this matter, the guide & conducter of this work, reason wils that due honour be giuen him, of what good so euer shall appeare in this amorous discourse: for he onely hath led me this way, giuing me boldnes to attempt, force to continue, and perfect vnderstanding to see many great and secret misteries. And that happily my desire may the better sort to his wished effect, O sacred Venus commaund (I pray thee) thy little wanton, to bend his bow, and shoote his golden arrow against her breast, who long hath checkt me with vndeserued repulse: And with thy fierie brond (if it please thee) so thaw her frozen hart, that I may feele the effect: so that shrowded with the mantle of her good grace, I may easilie finish that I haue begun. And you faire Ladies (whose soft and tender harts be most apt to take each amorous impression) vouchsafe to shield me against the enuious backbiters, that by their venomous pearcing and detracting tongues, I be not deemed to haue written of a thing base and vnprofitable.

A Table of the Contents of the Chapters heere following.

HOw ſuperſtitious perſons of former age, gaue theyr Virgine daughters to ſerue the Goddeſſe Diana, & the cauſe. Folio. 1.

In what forme the Goddeſſe Diana appeared in the Forreſt of Floſſolan, and what Lawes, inſtitutions, and manner of life ſhee preſcribed to her Damſels. fol. 2.

How Diana came into the Forreſt of Floſſolan to viſite her Votaries, and what inſtructions ſhe gaue them neere to the Fountaine. fol. 4.

How the young Shephearde Affrican lying hidde in a Beares denne, ſawe the Nymphes of Diana by the Fountaine, and how he became amorous of one of them, named *Menſola*. 5.

Of Affricans laments being come out of the Denne, for loue of her whom he knew not but by ſight. 6.

How old Griffon father of Affrican, recounted to his ſon the death of his Father *Mugnon*: and of the tranſmutation of the Nymph whom he deflowred neere to the Riuer. 7.

Of the viſion which Affrican had ſleeping, and how and for what cauſe he was wounded by Cupid. 10.

Of the Nimphs whom Affrican ſawe in the Forreſt, but could not ſpeake withall for the ſuddainnes of his ſight. 12

How Affrican found the faire *Menſola* in the Forreſt, and of the feare and danger he had to be ſlaine. 14.

How Affrican ranging the Woods to ſeeke *Menſola*, did ſacrifice to the Gods to appeaſe the Goddeſſe Venus: and of the miracle there happened. 15.

How Affrican diſguiſed him ſelfe like a Damſell, to deceaue the Nimphs of Diana, and how he ſlew a Bore with his Dart, in preſence of his *Miſtreſſe*. 18.

How Affrican diſguiſed as a *Mayd*, deflowred the faire Menſola vnwilling in the valley of the Pond. 21.

The

The complaints of *Mensola* after she was defloured, and how at the second charge with Affrican, she remained with child of a faire Sonne. 24.

How Affrican failing of *Mensola* in the Valley of the Lake, (as they had agreed) through despaire slew him selfe with his owne Dart. 27.

How *Mensola* feeling her selfe with child, sought counsell at Senadeche, and what comfort she receiued. 30.

How Mensola surprised by Diana, cast her childe into a bush and fled: And how she was transformed into a Riuer, and the child brought to his Parents. 32.

How Pruneo Sonne of Affrican and *Mensola*, descended of the Linage of Prince Turnus which then ruled Italy, for his vertues was onely elected Gouernour of the Land of Flossolan. 35.

Of the linage of Pruneo, the first beginning of the Florentines, and by whom the Cittie of Florence was repayred. 37.

¶ How

THE FAMOVS TRAgicall diſcourſe of *Affrican* and *Menſola*.

CHAP. I.

¶ Howe ſuperſtitious perſons of former age, gaue theyr Virgin Daughters to ſerue the Goddeſſe *Diana*, and the cauſe.

NEere vnto Florence the chiefe Cittie of the Tuſcan Region, there is a Village called Floſſolan, ſituate at the foote of a little mountaine, bordering on the South ſide: a large Plaine, fertile and well ſeated, though in former time but little. At the confines thereof, bee many houſes neere adioyning together, in forme of a Towne, without Walls, Ditches, or other fortifications, (at leaſt) none ſuch as now be vſed.

There dwelled alſo a fewe people, and they, although they were few, withdrew themſelues into the mountains, aſwell becauſe that place promiſed them moſt ſafetie, as alſo for that the concourſe of the Waters vpon the Plaine, made many Myres, Ponds, Lakes, and ſmall Riuers, changing the firme Plaine and lowe Countrey, to Mariſh

and Fenny ground, stored with Trées, Reeds, & Groues, shadie and very pleasant.

Nowe were all people that inhabited the earth, namelie those betweene the Seas Adriarque and Thyreyn, wholie giuen to Idolatrie, and subiect to foolish and vayne Ceremonies, full of superstition.

The Italians also amongst others, were not altogether free from this follie, but religiouslie held and beléeued (as a thing more then sure) that those whom they worshipped for Gods, as Iupiter, Mercurie, Mars, Neptune, Vulcan, Bacchus, Venus, and such like, discended on the earth below at their pleasure, to conuerse with men, in sundry places, (as their fantasies best gaue them,) some delighting in the Forrest chace, some to swimme in the Waters, others shewed themselues in the Mountaines nére to the Riuers, and oft-times in Townes, Churches and houses, vnder diuers kindes and formes: for some came shadowed in humane shape of man or woman, and others hid vnder the similitude of some wilde or tame Beast: so that this poore abused people, to honour their supposed Gods, did sacrifice vnto them, in those places where they most frequented.

This Pagan error, was long time obserued amongst the rusticke and vnlearned people, euen amongst the inhabitants of Flossolan, who aboue all other Gods, most honored the Goddesse Diana, for that (as they supposed) they had oft séene her sport and chase in the neighbour Woods and Forrests adioyning.

The deuill also to encrease their error (as it is certain) and to bring these fonde beléeuing people to perpetuall ruine, began then to shewe himselfe in the visible shape of a Woman, in the Forrest of Flossalan, making knowne to the Inhabitants adioyning, that shee was Diana Goddesse of chastitie, best pleased to bee serued with Virgins: And to them which willingly would followe her, shée would prescribe

preſcribe an honeſt manner of liuing, meet to preſerue their chaſtitie: and further, ayde thē againſt ſuch as ſhould do them any out-rage, or practiſe to with-draw them from theyr ſacred profeſſion.

Theſe fooliſh people (lightlie deceiued) gaue freelie theyr Daughters to Diana, and ſent them to ſerue her where ſhes kept in the Forreſt: ſuppoſing this ſacrifice moſt acceptable to the Goddeſſe, hoping thereby to haue her readie affected to fauour them, and in their neceſſities to relieue their wants.

Diana by this meane (accompanied in ſhort time with many faire Damſels of that Countrey) entertained them gladly, with great promiſe of rewards: prouided that they ſware to abide ſtill Virgins, to flie aboue all thinges the companie of men, and to followe her, and obſerue her heſts.

This cuſtome, (though inuented by the deuill) tooke force not onely in Italy, but in many other Regions alſo, to wit, Greece, Corinth, Dalmacia, Armenia, Cappadocia, and to be briefe, all Countries els inhabited.

Diana ſeeing her religion to floriſh, and the dailie increaſe of her Virgins in all Countries, (the better to entertaine them in vnitie, ſequeſter from them all affection to returne to their Parents, and deſire to conuerſe with men) ſhee trained them to the Chace, to draw the Bowe, to toſſe the Pyke, to runne to ſette the Nets, to ſpread the Toyles, to rouze the wilde and ſauage Beaſts, and to caſt ſtones and Darts: wherein theſe young Virgins prooued ſo ſkilfull, that in ſhort time there was founde no Boze, Beare, Tygar, Leopard, nor other ſauage or wilde Beaſts, were he fierce, cruell, or ſtrong, which they ouer-came not: the hart whereof they forcibly puld out, ſuppoſing they were able to reſiſt, not onely the felnes of the Beaſtes, but the importunitie alſo of young men, which attempted often to ſurprize and deceiue them.

By this meane, were they so feared, that no youth (howe outragious soeuer) durst appeare to displease thys sacred Mayden companie, aswell for the danger of cruell and vnmercifull death by them, as the vengeaunce also which Diana tooke of such, as practised to outrage her feminute followers: For some this angry Goddesse slewe, enraged with furie, some others with their wealth, consumed with fire: and others attempting some matters offensiue to her Virgins, she slewe with her deadly Arrowes, which made them so feared of each, that the most insolent did them honour, forbearing the place of their being, as vnworthie to approch a thing so religious and holy: so that the Forrest promised them more safetie, then any great populous and well walled Cittie could yeeld them.

CHAP. II.

¶ In what forme the Goddesse Diana appeared in the Forrest of Flossolan, and what Laws, Institutions and manner of life shee prescribed to her Damsels.

Diana hauing in diuers Realmes and strange Countries many virgins, in Forrests, Temples, and Monasteries, (which the poore abused people had founded in her name) was not idle, but passed to and fro in diuers places, nowe appearing in the East Regions, then in the South, after in the Westerne parts, and sometimes in the North also, and diuers other places, as her fantasie leade her, to visite her religious troupe: to whom she gaue lawes, ordinaunces, and institutions to keepe and continue in her seruice.

And hauing passed all Europe, Affrick, and Asia, shee returned at length into Italy, to wit, her Damsels demeanour in her absence, known only by the name of Nimphes

through

through the Tuſcan Region, where that Goddeſſe was had in chiefe reputation, and comming to the Foreſt of Floſſolan, ſhee appeared commonly in the ſhape of a faire & huge Woman, well proportioned, of good feature, ſtraight and ſlender, her eyes and face bright as a Starre, and full of great maieſtie, ſhining with ſuch cléerenes, that oft times men coulde hardly endure to beholde her: her haire ſomewhat yellowiſh, curled & wrapped about her head, bound vp with a ribband of golden thread, richly garniſhed with fine ſtones of great price.

Her coate was of Ruſſet-Velvet, brodered with an infinite number of Pearles great and orient, turned downe to the middle of the legge, diſcouering the ſhinne well proportioned and high, with the hoſe finely attired, and the garters pinked and cut. Her ſhoulders were couered with a ſhort cloake of Red-ſattin, ſcarce reaching to the girdle, but ſhrowding her armes, apparrailed onely with a ſmock white and very fine.

In her right hand ſhe bare a Turkie Bowe of Steele, ſtrong, guilt, grauen, and curiouſlie wrought: and in the other an yron Dart, long, and very dangerous. By her ſide hanged in a large chaine of golde a Quiuer ſtored with Arrowes, poyſoned and mortall: to be briefe, her equipage was ſuch as nothing wanted.

And as ſhe ſéemed young of twentie-fiue yeeres, fayre, freſh, and liuely, (hauing an eye to the Woods) ſo was her pace ſtately and full of great maieſtie, her countenaunce graue, with a ſeuere regard: her hand ready, her hart couragious, hardie, and bold to the end: ſo that finding ought which offended her Dietie, (were it Beaſt or other Creature man or woman) ſhee ſlew them forth-with, without mercie.

By this meane ſhe was feared, not onely of them which knew her by ſight onely, or by report, but of ſuch alſo as dailie accompanied her.

And if any of her Damsels, in her absence or otherwise, had let loose the Cat to the Cheese, and lost the manner of a Virgine, no sooner had she knowledge thereof, but forthwith she tooke such vengeance on them, that their example should terrifie the rest: some-time with great reproch returning them to their Parents, or else transformed them to some Fountaine, Riuer, Tree, Plant or Roote, and oft times to a Stone, Mountaine, or sauage Beast. And if she found them with the fault, and could surprise them with the acte, she slew them both without mercy. Beholde then the cause why Diana was so honoured.

This Goddesse, comming into the Tuscane Countrey, assembled her religious Pupils, vnder a shady place inuironed with greene boughes, neere to a Fountaine, where sitting downe, placing them circle-wise about her, and her selfe in the midst, after the coolenes of the Euening had calmed the parching heate of the Sunne, shee admonished them to keepe their virginitie, at the least, while they abode vnder her conduct, without violating or prophaning their sacred order, to abandon the company of men, and not so much as behold them, least their importunitie mouing in their mindes new motions, might afterwards engender vnchast desires, repugnant wholy to her sacred institutions.

Her speech ended, for recreation, shee deuised of the Chace, taught them meanes to assaile and vanquish the cruell fiercenes of the Beast: called each to recount theyr prayes gotten, at least such as were worthy: praysed those that had done best, to increase their desire to do better, and by good and milde exhortations, incited the minds of others to the like.

After many dayes thus spent in deuising with her Nymphes, Diana before shee departed, elected one whom shee made Mistres and Gouernesse of the rest, and vnder paine of her high displeasure, she commanded (as herselfe)

to

to obey in her abſence: which commandement was as religiouſly kept as the Nunnes at this day obey their Abbeſſ in what ſoeuer ſhe commaundeth.

Now were theſe Virgins clothed in white garments, a collour propper to ſignifie their puritie, and might thereby eaſily be knowne. For this cauſe alſo of ſtrangers, they were reputed ſacred and holy, and to light ſo precious, that men doubted to touch them (as fire) for feare of death.

CHAP. III.

¶ How Diana came into the Forreſt of Floſſolan to viſite her Votaries, and what inſtructions ſhe gaue them neere to the Fountaine.

After Diana had ſpent many dayes with her Nymphes on the Olympian Mountaines, and confines of Arabia, ſhee determined to to returne to Tuſcane: and at the firſt entrie of the flouriſhing Monthy of May, ſhee approched the Forreſt of Floſſolan, the ſame beeing the ſeaſon of the Spring, ſo ſweet & pleaſant, that hardly could men ſee Tree, Hedge, or Groue, vncouered with all ſorts of little Birds, diſcloſing with open throates their newe Amours. The Nightingale warbling her notes with ſweet harmonie, accuſed the diſloyaltie of Tirreus. The Lynnet with many other ſmall Birds, in their wood-like tunes, ſhewed forth the high praiſes of Venus, from whom the Mountaines of ioy had taken their greene Chaplets, the greene Trees their new ornaments, and the little hils their accuſtomed deckings: ouer-looking the Valleys and Fields with ſuch delight, that each thing ſæmed to laugh for the pleaſantnes of the time. This was alſo the ſeaſon, wherein youth of each ſexe, moſt felt the hote and amorous vapour of Venus, and the ſharpe pricks of Cupid.

At

At this time also came Diana to visite her Flosolan Nymphes, and assembling them together, (as the Hen her Chickins) to vnderstand their gouernment in her absence, shee resolued to holde Chapiter in a place of the Forrest most commodious and very pleasant. And arriuing in a Valley large, plaine, and very dilectable, in the middest whereof was a Pond, the water therein discending from a siluer spring in the height of the Mountaine, bordering the East side of the Vally, ranne with a sweete and delectable murmure: which passed for a space by the Plaine, letted by the rootes of sundry great Trees, staide it selfe in forme of a little Lake. The water discending from the Fountaine, by the fresh force thereof had decked the place where it passed, with sundry sorts of sweet hearbes and flowers.

The Goddesse beholding the pleasantnes of this Vally, and making choyse of a faire place adioyning to the mountaine, sate downe on a little hill at the foote of a faire and large Tree, (which shee vsed as a Trybune or iudgement seate) the Nymphes as shee commaunded, on the grasse also before her. And reposing herselfe against an olde Oake, the boughes whereof as a Tent, encurtened and defended them from the parching heate of the Sun, beholding with good regard her Mayden companie, shee layd her Bow aside and stood vp, in one hand holding a Darte in steed of a Scepter, whereupon shee leaned with great grauitie, and couching her other hand vpon her thigh, with a cleare and shrill voyce she began as followeth.

The Oration of the Goddesse.

SAcred Nymphes, who haue left your owne Parents to doo me seruice, and are curious to obserue my hests, renouncing (for my sake) your fleshly affections, and your selues also to keepe my commaundements: I exhort you by vertue of ỹ obedience you haue often sworne mee, to hold firmly my institutions, and beware aboue all

things

things that you be not ſeduced nor bowded by the importunitie of men. Fly, flie them (I ſay) my good Friendes, as a thing noyſome, contagious, and wholy repugnant to your chaſtitie. Fly far from them, and deigne them no hearing, for if your forgetfulnes lend eare to their plaints and amorous diſcourſes, you ſhall take afterwarde (it may be) deſire to yeld them that romaineth. Be ſubtile therefore as the Serpent, and ſtop your chaſt eares from their poyſoned charmes. And if they proue importunate, with practiſe to violate and diſhonour you, ſtrike, ſtrike (I ſay) my ſweete Virgins, draw againſt them your Bowes, thruſt forward your Arrowes, and ſlay them without pittie: let no feare daunt you, for I will be your ayde when your owne power faileth. Otherwiſe, if you ſuffer your ſelues to be vanquiſhed, and yeld to them without reſiſtance, on you both wil I take ſuch vengeance, as a memorable example thereof ſhall remaine to all poſteritie: But if you will obſerue my Lawes, and keepe my ſtatutes, moſt happy ſhall you bee of any, and loued and deſired of all, ſo that your immortalitie ſhall remoue you aboue the ſtarres, there to remaine in perpetuall glory.

CHAP. IIII.

¶ Howe the young Shepheard Affrican lying hid in a Bears denne, ſaw the Nymphes of Diana by the Fountaine, and how he became amorous of one of them named Menſola.

WHilſt the Goddeſſe thus preached to her Nimphes, a young Shepheard (who before her arriuall at the Fountaine, lay ſleeping in the Denne of a Beare, almoſt in midſt of the Mountaine nighbour) wakened with the ſound of her liuely ſpeech belowe, and ſoftlie creeping on all foure out of the mouth of the Caue, to know the cauſe of that noyſe, he eſpied through the branches and

thick bushes (which hindered his sight) where Diana sate, and her Nimphes before her on the grasse, attentiuely hearing what their Mistres said.

This youth named Affrican, sonne to an olde man called Griffon, dwelling not far thence distant, was much amazed to see this feminine company in a place so desart, ioyful notwithstanding to beholde so many faire Damsels, as before that time he had neuer seene: and thanking Fortune that had presented a thing so worthy to his viewe, hee placed himselfe in a secret corner, where he might best be vnseene, behold these Virgins, thorowe the thicknes of the trees, branches, and high shrubs, growing at the entry of the place. This Affrican had not then passed the age of twenty yeeres, notwithstanding, of stature hee was mightie, straight, and well proportioned each way, as any of his time beside: His beard not yet growne, resembling a mayde of fifteene yeeres, his haire thick, bushy and curled, yellow as a thred of gold, his face like the white Rose, blowming at the sunnes vprise, fresh, smoth, and rounde as an Apple, and he the only sonne of his Father, dwelling at the end of the Mountaine, right opposite to the Pond: who the same day leauing his Fathers house for recreation, and walking to sport himselfe in the Forrest, intending with his Dart to surprise some Doe or other such beast, approching the Valley of the Pond in coasting about the Mountaine, Fortune led him to this Den, entring whereof, hee found a large and faire roome, where he reposed himselfe, and slept by the fresh coolenes of the rock, and wakened at the noyse of Dianas words to her Damsels.

Affrican lurking (as I saide before) within this sauage Cane, tooke great pleasure in beholding the Goddesse and her Nimphes, who seemed very fearefull, humble, and hartily attentiue to their Mistres wordes: yet coulde not the greedy eye of this young wanton stay it selfe in anie one place, but ranged to and fro without rest, curiously regarding

ding the perfect beauty of each, and founde them all of ſuch equall perfection, that déeme he could not rightly who moſt excelled, or was beſt praiſe worthy.

Long ſtood he gazing at this deuout company, with one like affection to all, till at length glaunсing his eyes aſide, hee eſpied a Nimph turning her face to the Mountaine, wherin he perceiued ſuch bright beames of perfect beautie, ſeated aboue the reſt, that wholy benummed of ſence, new and vnwonted affects forth-with appauled his vnderſtanding, that hardly could hee retaine them. Nowe had the winged God in a moment, wounded this youth with loue towards her whom earſt hee had not ſéene: yet ſuch were his amorous affects, and more then burning deſire, that no hart ſo hard but would relent & pitty his furious paſſions: for griefe onely made him ſweat, and feare, to tremble, as one taken with the Palſie, or quarterne Feauer, without power to reſt in any one place.

And the more hee buſied himſelfe to beholde the modeſt countenaunce of this chaſt Damſell, ſo much the more hee felt himſelfe inflamed with newe deſires, and ſo far beſotted with loue at this firſt viewe, that quite forgetting the place of his being, he ſighed and ſorrowed aboue meaſure: yet was hee ſo firmely deuoted to his Nimphiall Hiſtris, that power wanted to withdraw his eyes from the ſweete regard of her pleaſant, ſmiling, and amiable countenaunce. Whoſe hap (quoth he) ſhould equall mine, were I loued of ſuch a Damſel? Could euer Fortune grace me with greater good, then ſeate mee betwixt the armes of ſo diuine a creature? No ſurely, but if ſuch good hap befell mée, my content ſhoulde exceede: and not fearing that angry Goddeſſe, and troupe of Virgins vnder her conduct, I woulde dare to make knowne vnto her my burning affection. And I déeme her not ſo cruell, for my great good will to reward me with deſpight. But Diana (it may bee) whoſe Deitie not féeling the pricks of loue, (in like meaſure as wee mor-

tall Creatures doe) would not with like regard vse me, but seeing me here alone, would slay me without pitty.

Longer had this newe Louer discoursed with himselfe, had not the suddaine rising of the Nimph Alpina at the Goddesse becke stayd him. To this (saide Diana poynting to Alpina standing in the midst) I will and commaund you (as my selfe) to obey in my absence: for my minde is to depart shortly to visite my Nimphes in other Regions. Demeane then your selues my daughters in my absence, that my returne may bee ioyfull, so shall you gaine my fauour for your continuall good.

This said, Diana (seeing the Sunne to decline, and hide his bright beames behinde the Mountaine) arose vp with Bow in hand, and her Damsels also to depart: and marching a soft pace forwarde, began a song, with such melodious harmony, that Affrican beeing in the Den, (admiring at these occurrents which hee sawe through the branches) supposed he had beene in Parradise. The sorow that he toke for their departure was great, so that his eyes conuaid thē, so far as his sight would suffer him, which once lost, hee disclosed himselfe, casting his eyes towards the Plaine, with great feare to be seene of the Goddesse.

CHAP. V.

¶ Of Affricans laments being come out of the Denne, for loue of her whom he knew not but by sight.

After Diana with her Nimphes were departed, Affrican came forth of the Denne, fearefull notwithstanding to be seene of the Goddesse, as yet scarce out of sight, and to prouide for his better safetie, ascended the height of the Mountaine, to beholde the Plaine: but seeing no appearance of any creature, hee descended lower towards the Fountaine, where Diana had preached

preached to her Nimphes. And there finding the place where his beſt-beloued ſate, not knowing further, what, of what parents or of whence ſhe was, but hearing her onlie called Menſola by one of her companions, yet affectedly hee beholde the place where ſhee repoſed herſelfe whilſt Diana ſpake: and pauſing a while with great ſilence, folding his armes vpon his breſt, and his head hanging downward, ſtood ſtill immoueable as a block, yet at length ſomewhat recouering his ſpirits, and belching forth of his amorous ſtomacke an infinite number of ſighes, and lifting vp his eyes, ſaid.

Vnfortunate youth that I am, how vnhappy haue I loſt her ſight which bred my chiefe delight? Hath this ſight ſo troubled my ſpirits, and now can no more enioy it? Fates (I feare) will neuer afford me that fauour to behold hereafter ſo diuine a thing. Ah diſmall day, preſenting to my view ſo faire an obiect, and at one inſtant to bereaue mee thereof againe, not knowing her aboade that rauiſhed my hart by the brightnes of her eyes, and ſweet ſmiling viſage: yet if I knew her whoſe ſole regarde hath ſo deeply wounded mee, or if ſhee (at leaſt) vnderſtode my ſmothering affects towardes her, and in what plight loue hath brought me for her ſake, my content would be greater: but in vaine may I hope for her fauour, whoſe vnkinde departure gaue me cauſe of ſuch deepe diſpaire. O earth thrice happy to ſuſtaine a burthen ſo precious: yet more happy you, yee ſweet hearbes & freſh flowers, hauing ſeene, and (it may be) felt, that would haue highly pleaſed me to haue touched, by her own conſent. For her ſake (who ſitting, preſſed you down) will I kiſſe you a thouſand fold. Then proſtrating himſelfe at the place where Menſola had beene, he kiſſed the hearbs with ſo great affection, that men farre of beholding his demeanour, would haue thought he had eaten them, ſo muffled he his face among them, and ſo far had his amorous affects ſubdued his vnderſtanding.

This done, the youth arose by surcharged with sorrowe (as before) and so with loue surprised, that he doubted whether it were night or day. Then casting his eyes aloft, hee sore sighed, and said. Alas, what frowarde fortune or despightfull destenie hath brought me to this place, to make mee loue an vnknowne Damsell: and not guided by anie other force of affection or desire, hath cast mee headlong into the deepe pitte of dispaire, despised of her whom I intirely affect, though the same vnknowne vnto her. And no sooner shall this faire Nimph see mee, then flie, abhorring the company of man, as their rule and order wils. What then shal I do: that manifesting my loue, my affaires may sort frõ bad to worse, and concealing it, the flame more increaseth. Then no way but death remaineth to ease my torment.

With these and such like complaints Affrican spent the day, and there rested vntill the starres glistring in the heauens gaue manifest shew of the nights approch, whereby hee was forced to leaue the place, and returne to his pastorall house.

CHAP. VI.

¶ How olde Griffon, Father of Affrican, recounted to his sonne the death of his Father Mugnon: and of the transmutation of the Nimph whom he deflowred neere to the Riuer.

THE Father of Affrican, seeing the night to approch, and his sonne not returned (as hee was wont) as one who loued him deerelie, coniectured diuersly of his absence, fearing that some wilde Beast had deuoured, or else so wounded his sonne, that he could no returne: or that encountring Diana in the Woods, iealous of her Nimphes, she had slaine him, as before she had done his Grandfather,

Father,

Father, and many other of his Parents. Diſcourſing this with himſelfe, he walked about his houſe from ſide to ſide, and at the noyſe of each leafe ſhaken with the winde, hee ſuppoſed to haue ſeene his ſonne.

Alcumena alſo his Mother, did participate of the like ſorrow: who ſitting at the threſhold of the doore, pittieuſlie bewailed her ſonne, and deuiſed with her ſelfe what ỹ cauſe might be of his long and vnwonted abſence. Affrican on the other ſide, paſſing the right path along the Mountaine, feared alſo to encounter ſome wilde & ſauage Beaſt, knowing that was the time they left their Dennes to rauen for their prayes.

Theſe and many other doubts paſſed, hee arriued at his Fathers houſe, where he was hartily receiued of the good olde man, who had long waited for his comming, and of Alcumena alſo, who kiſſing him often with her huſband, demaunded of him many things, and chiefely the cauſe of his long abſence. Affrican ſeeing his Father importunate, to conceale the truth, and cleanſe him of ſuſpition alreadie hatched in his braine, coyned an excuſe as leaue had taught him, ſaying: Father, ſith you pleaſe to knowe the cauſe of my long ſtay, vnderſtande, that ranging the Forreſt thys day to rouze the Deare, I encountred (in a pleaſant Vally neere to the Fountaine) a heard of Does feeding, the faireſt that erſt I euer ſawe: amongſt whom was one white as the Lilly, young, faire, and ſeeming to be tame, whom (ſtaing behind the reſt) I followed with graſſe in my hand, hoping to take and preſent her to your ſelfe, but I could not: for when I thought moſt ſurely to take her, ſhe turned her backe and fledde. Notwithſtanding, often returned to the gaze, and long purſuing her with great deſire, the night ſurprized me before I wiſt.

The good old man, being wiſe, ripe in iudgement, and of great experience, ſuppoſing hee had ſounded the depth of his ſonnes darke and ſubtile aunſwere, thought theſe Does might

might wel be the Nimphes of Diana, oft seene in that Forrest, and very vnwilling to offend his sonne, fained to giue credite to his talke, yet minding to aduise him of the danger ensuing that perrilous chace, said. My sonne, I charge thee in the honour of the Gods, to leaue pursute of these Does, and let them goe with a mischiefe: for beleeue mee on my faith, they be protected by the great Goddesse Diana, so much feared in all Countries: who leaues them in these woods without a keeper, and oft times herselfe feedes and watereth them at this Fountaine, or els where shee best liketh, but still armed with her bow and deadly arrowes, wherewith this fierce Dame slaieth without mercie those that displease her, as often, and not long since shee hath our Parents and kindred. Ah beloued sonne, the fresh remembrance of my Fathers death, makes mine eyes gush with teares of sorrow, calling to mind, how, and for what cause he was founde vnhappily slaine by the Goddesse, whereof, seeing the time well serueth, & occasion so willeth, I minde to speak, to forewarne thee thereby to beware the like misfortune. And I pray Iupiter so ayde mee, as trulie I shall shew the offence he committed, cause of his ouer-cruel and vntimely death.

Thou knowest thy Grand-father was called Mugnon, surnamed as my selfe: but if I should declare the particulers of this troublesome mischance, I should be to tedious, (and it may be) ouer sorrowfull, wherefore I will passe it ouer in briefe. To come then to the true report of the fact, vnderstand that my Father then of ripe age, (as Hunters commonly vse) oft sported himselfe in the Forrests and Mountaines with the chase of wild Beasts, & many times delighted to walke neere the Riuer named (as ỹ knowest) Mugnon, after thy Grand-father, in respect of many siluer streames discending from the little hils by the Plaine, which (it seemed) with great pleasure cast themselues into the Riuer.

It

It happened one day as he approched a faire and large Pond, neere vnto which ran with a calme & ſweete noyſe, a liuely Fountaine cleere as Chriſtall: hee eſpied a young Nimph, freſh and beautifull, waſhing her face and hands to coole the extremity of her heate at the Fountaine: but no ſooner did this Damſell perceiue him cõming towards her, but ſhee fled to the Mountaine, as if death had purſued her. My Father (it may be) ouer-curiouſly beholding this young Virgine, & eſteeming her beautie at too high a rate, followed faſt after and bidde her ſtay, proteſting that hee meant her nought but good, yet ſeeing his words little auailed, her flying made him follow with more deſire to vnderſtand what ſhe was. But oh Father, too haſty was thy purſute, not knowing that thy death was at hand, and haſted to accompliſh what thy vnhappy Fates had ſecretlie decreed: but enflamed with loue, and new burning affects, was blinded, that thou couldeſt not ſee whether thy froward Fortune led thee, nor yet the ſnares newly layd for thy deſtruction. Would God Diana had then tranſformd the Damſell, (whom thou too affectedly followedſt) into ſome Tree, Groue, Yearb, Plant, Stone, or Bird.

The Nimphe ſeeing herſelfe ſo neerely purſued, kept on her courſe vntill the Riuer (from that day called Mugnon, before named Alde) ſtaid her. Where arriuing, ſhe becam ſo faint and breathleſſe, that naturall ſtrength failing, ſhee was cõſtrained to take hold of a Tree to ſupport her weary limbes from falling. At what time my Father more amorous then fortunate, ouertaking her, more ioyed at the conqueſt of ſo rich a bootie then the whole worlde beſides: and embracing her faſt in his armes, hee kiſſed her with great affection, and violently deflowred her.

But alas, they being thus coupled and earneſt in theyr ſports, Diana from the neighbour Mountaines beholding them ſo imbracing, & lying face to face, vehemently cryed out, ſaying: Ah ſhameleſſe, luſtful, and diſhoneſt ribaulds,

breakers of my diuine hests, beholde the howre wherein I will send you both to hell, for your small regard of me, and shame to violate my Lawes. Think not that I can breke you to iest at me among your companions, vaunting howe finely you haue deceiued me, and taken your pleasure mauger my will, without talking due punishment for your offence: for the present reuenge I will take vpon you, shall remaine for example to a future time.

Scarcely had she ended, but taking from her Quiuer a deadly arrow, she bent her cruell Bowe, and pulling with great force the string to her eare, shee losed so liuelie, that with the stroke thereof the two infortunate Louers (but then) entering the pleasure of their common delight, were through pierced, and as it were, pinned together with one selfe thing: and in a moment so mortally wounded, that rowling neere to the water, mutually embracing each other, they yelded their blood and liues together. Thus ended these Louers their vnfortunate lines so sone as their pleasure beganne, feeling the mortall yron to pierce their intrails before their mutuall desires was consumate.

Nowe was I at the brinke of the Riuer, chasing the Heron, and perceiuing the water neere to the banck bloody and redde, changed from his naturall colour, was striken with a suddaine & vnwonted feare, and (young as I was) went head-long the Riuer to see the cause of this trouble. But here the old man, ouer-come with extreame sorrowe, staid, his hart for very griefe and pitty earned, that resting his head vpon his hand which he helde on the table, and distilling from his eyes aboundance of teares, he so continued silent for a space: then raysing himselfe, with waterie eyes pursued his sorrowfull tale, as followeth.

I had not (said he) farre walked along, before I found my Father dead vpon the Sands, fast ioyned and bound to the Nimph with one selfe yron, and the luke-warme blood gushing from their breathlesse bodies, tumbled into the Riuer.

Riuer. As I thought to draw neere them, the ſuddaine arriuall of Diana made me ſhrinke back, who with great furie and inflamed with ire, approching theſe two vntimelie corſes, tooke back her fatall arrow, and with her foote, diſdainfully tumbled my Fathers dead corps into the riuer, ſince that time not ſeene of anie. The Nimph ſhee transformed into a Fountaine, cõtinually running with a calme and pleaſant ſtreame towards the Riuer, complayning (with a ſweete murmure) of the outrage receiued, and intermingling their waters in token of mutuall loue together. Theſe newes (though wofull to my ſelfe) I was forced to report to my ſorrowfull Mother, who ouer-come with extreame ſorrow, ſhortly after dyed. Beholde nowe my ſonne, what great danger it is, raſhly to offend this angry Goddeſſe.

Many more like examples could I cite of olde, but theſe freſh in memory of thy Parents, (the chiefe whereof, were changed into ſauage beaſts, and many into ſtones, Rocks, Trees, and Groues) ſhall ſuffiſe. Beware then my ſonne as thou loueſt thy life, the cruell hande of this fierce Goddeſſe. Beware I ſay, to offend her, and flye the place of her Virgins aboade, with ill hap let them goe, for nought elſe but euill can befall thee.

CHAP. VII.

¶ Of the viſion which Affrican had ſleeping, and how, and for what cauſe he was wounded by Cupid.

AFfrican attentiuely liſtened to his Fathers words, but they wanted force to cure his amorous wounde: for his ſore required another ſalue, yet made he ſemblance to vnderſtand, and willingly to follow the ſage couſell of his aged Father. And the better to aſſure him of his filiall obedience, ſhaped him this anſwere.

The Gods forbid (oh Father) that any such thing shold befall me, for I am resolued by all meanes to auoyde occasions of euill, and to keepe me frō offence towards the Goddesse, or ought that concernes her. Her Nimphes also will I not deale with, but let them goe at their owne pleasure: notwithstanding, let vs I pray you withdraw to rest, for our eyes are closed almost with sleepe, and the night is far spent. This speech ended, each one betooke himselfe to rest, African onely excepted, whose new Amours coulde entertaine no sleepe or quiet, nor yet his bed could yeeld him anie rest, such power had loue gained ouer him.

No sooner did the cheerefull day appeare, (discharging the darke and wearisome night) but forgetting the late sage counsel of his auncient Father, he arose, and returned to the Mountaine and Vally of the Pond, and to the places most haunted of the Nimphes, with great desire to behold her whose image so liuely was figured in his thought, but he failed thereof for many daies, which increased his mellancholy passions, and doubled his griefe. Yet beaten at length with the rodde of his owne folly, calling to mind aswell the difficultie to obtaine her, (whom he knewe not onely but by sight) as also the great impossibilities he sawe to hinder his desire, and the extreame sorrow hee conceiued of so long and hopelesse sute, he resolued to cure his hote raging affects with the bridle of reason, to leaue pursute of his late beloued Nimph, and to frequent each place of his Saints aboad, with far lesse deuotion then formerly he had done.

Thus continued he for a space, vntil Loue knowing his resolution, and minding to encrease the paine of his fugitiue seruant, determined to straighten his bonds, and make him feele the hote fire of loue, so scorching, that the sparkes thereof might shew the effects. Now as African slept one night in his bed, he supposed a Lady of meruailous beauty, inuironed with great brightnesse as the Sunne beames,

presented

preſented her ſelfe before him. In her right hand ſhe heald a flaming brond, burning with great light, that the Chamber appeared as the none day: and in her other hand, a naked Boy, bearing at his backe a Quiuer of arrowes, and in his hand a bow guilt, curiouſly wrought, and very delightfull to behold. This Lady reſted her ſelfe before the bed of Affrican, and letting loſe the hand of the child, (whom ſhe checked with an angry viſage, ſaid.

What furie hath forced thee (little Wagge) leauing me that am thy Mother to follow Diana in the Forreſt, and imploy thy force vpon Beaſts, without reaſon, and not on ſuch as I inflame with my ſacred brond? Art thou ſo ſenceleſſe (little wanton) to abandon, whom duty wills thee to obay, follow my chiefe enemy, nought elſe intending but the ſole wrack and ruine of mankind, and to end the world by her niceneſſe, and further to extinguiſh with her forged reaſons, whatſoeuer my amorous fire can compaſſe? And yet you will ayde her. What ſtayed Youth (I pray you,) will defend againſt me, her whom reaſon bids him moſt hate, for ſeeking to ſuppreſſe our power. I cannot ſurely but take in bad part, thy foliſh inuention. And haue you forgotten, (little vnhappie) what was latelie concluded in the Conciſtorie of the Gods before thy Grandfather Iupiter, when they gaue thee thoſe armes, which thou beareſt? Was it to imploy them againſt ſauage and wild Beaſts of the Forreſts, Mountaines, and Vallies? No, no, thou too too beaſtly abuſeſt them. It was onely to force a reciprocate loue betweene all creatures, as to me they gaue this brond to enflame the frozen harts, and flow to loue, whereunto I haue done my beſt endeuour: But thou (little Galland) neglecting the deuine prouidence, takes part with her who by her ſuperſtitious or deere attempt to deſtroy all humaine Creatures. By the ſacred Throane of the Goddeſſe (I ſweare.) If thou continue this error, I will ſurely complaine where I

ought: and the better to chastice thy rashnes, I will abate thy power, and manifest thy sottish presumption. And that I may perceaue what desire thou hast to amend thy misse, and yield me due obedience (as thou oughtest) I will and commaund thee forth-with, to wound this Youth here lying, so that enflamed with desire to affect some of Dianas Nimphs, it may worke her despight & sorrow: for the leue fier I earst kindled in his breast, is wel-nigh extinct.

Cupid seeing his Mothers rage, feared her threats, and shamed at the reproach she gaue him: wherefore to shew his obedience, vsed silence: but doubting to moue her further, toke an arrowe long and sharpe, bent his bow, and shot so forcibly against the breast of this wofull African, that it pierced him through and through, who beholding it comming, & wanting defence against the sharpnes therof, or other shift for his sodaine helpe, cried out for mercy: but in vaine, for feare onely made him awake, and feeling the wound lately receaued, looked vp, but all appearance was vanished.

Now the amorous heate before kindled, and almost extinct, in his hart began to renue a fresh, towards the faire Mensola, so that restlesse (as he was) he turned oft in his bed, accusing the Goddesse who had causeleslie wounded him sleeping.

What euill haue I done (sayde African) against your Dietie, (oh Princes of loue) thus cruelly to torment me long since subiected to thy will, from whom I expected rather comfort then cruelty? Oh faire Goddesse, ayde me (I pray thee) in this troublesome busines, and gaule me not with a double mischiefe, to affect one, vnknowne, without thy deuine fauour to attaine her. These and such like complaints past, he fell into a swet slumber, wherin Venus (as hee thought) againe appeared to him, with a countenance more swet, and far milder then before, and with a pleasant glad visage sayd.

Thou

Thou oughteſt rather blame thy ſelfe, (O Youth, toward and hartleſſe) then accuſe me of cruelty. What froward fortune, what ſtrange thought, or boyiſh feare, hath deterd thee from purſuing the queſt of the faire Menſola, wherein I had ſent thee? Is it feare of Diana, puſillanimitie of thy hart, or negligence, the cauſe that thou leaues to frequent the places moſt haunted by the Nimphs, and to behold her, who for beautie deſerue fauour of the beſt. Ah ill aduiſed Youth, blind and ignorant in thine owne affaires. Thy baſe mind deſires rather to pine with penſiue ſorrowes, then to ſearch out thy quiet and happy reſt. Comfort, and courage thy ſelfe, ſtill paſſing theſe woods, fields, hills, and dales: For in following this honeſt trauaile, thou ſhalt finde her, with other Nimphs of Diana, in chaſe of ſome wild Beaſts. And although ſhe ſeeme fearefull and coy, not deigning thee eare at the firſt, importune her onely, and enioy the conqueſt. Feare not Diana, for ſhe is now far diſtant: and though ſhe were preſent, care not: for I will defend thee: let not my abſence diſmay thee: for ſurely I will come, when my Sonne (by whoſe ayde I haue earſt ſubdued the Gods to my will) ſhall help (as he hath promiſed) and wound Menſola with like affection towards thee, ſo that thou be vigillant and preſt to obay my commaund.

CHAP. VIII.

¶ Of three Nimphs whom Affrican ſawe in the Forreſt, but could not ſpeake with-all for the ſuddainneſſe of his ſight.

AS Venus had thus ended, a huge Maſtiffe couching neere to Affricans Chamber (hearing (it may be) the ſteps of ſome paſſing on the flore, bayed with great noyce, which much amazed the Youth, and admiring at the

the occurents happened, he shoke off drousines from his eyes, and thus spake to himselfe,

Seeing Venus hath promised me her fauour, and moreouer, to enflame whom I entirely loue, with like affects towards me, it suffiseth. If Fortune then will present to my view, my sweet Mensola alone, without company of others Virgins, by loue or force. I meane to enioy her: for why should I doubt Diana, (if she doe her worst) hauing also a Goddesse on my side. So African resolued without feare to search out his beloued, where he thought he might best finde her.

The day now, began to shew it selfe, & Auroras bright shining discharged the sorrowfull night passed, what time African arose, and walked to the Valley of the Pond, where he had taken first view of his Mistresse, and failing to finde her there, mounted the height of a little hill adioyning, to heare and behold far about, if any Nimphs appeared in the Forrests: And ranging to and fro, more guided by loue then reason: his eyes euer staring, his eares open to listen, and his feete forward to runne whether his mind led him, and so attentiuely affected, that no sound or noyse was heard: but supposing some of the Nimphs had beene there: he presently ran thither, but deceaued of his hope, and his labour lost, he was sore troubled, and straight repented his folly. Wherefore, seeing the day to hast away, and the Sunne declining to settle her selfe in the West, he resolued to returne

In this resolution walking, he happened on a faire and greene way, leading towards Hosslolan, wherein he entred, and guided by affection onely, and loue, he had not long passed in that path, before he arriued in a Valley faire and very pleasant, where he heard the voyce of some singing with such melodious harmony, and so Siren like, that might haue mated the most stayed mind. And approching the place, whence he thought that melodie proceeded not

feare,

feare, but deſire to encounter his beloued, ſo appauled his ſpirits: that folding a croſſe his armes, and with a ſad countenance beholding the heauens, he vttered theſe regrets following.

Oh Iupiter, wouldſt thou make me ſo happy, to finde in this place her whom I prize, loue and eſteeme aboue all creatures: my ioy ſhould exceede. Preſent her onely to mine eyes, (I pray thee) and leaue me to manage the reſt: for I doubt not but to ſpeed, if I may once gaine her ſight. As he thus reaſoned with himſelfe, he beheld certaine young Maides of meruailous beauty, ſporting themſelues in midſt of a thicket within that Valley, whom he thought to ſurprize before they will: And as one that ſeekes to catch the Cricket or Graſhopper of the Graue, ſo went he ſoftly ſtealing among the buſhes, to a rowe of Cheſnuts there growing: In the ſhadow whereof he eſpyed three Damſels, their heads decked with greene Chaplets, repoſing their weary bodies at the feete of thoſe Trees, deuiſing together, and ſweetly ſinging in the ſhade. But when he ſaw not Menſola amongſt them, his ſpirits were troubled, and his ſorrow renued a freſh.

I thinke (ſayd hee) that either Venus mocks me, or elſe wants ſhee power to performe her promiſe: Yet of them will I enquire after her, and diſcloſe the ardent loue I beare her, ſo happily may I moue them to pitty and fauour me. This ſayd, he drew neere, and with a low and humble voyce, ſodainly hailſed them in this manner.

The deuine Goddeſſe whom you ſerue (noble Damſels) keepe you in all ioy and happines, diſmay not at my preſence, who meanes nought elſe, then to obay and ſerue you. Onely grace me with this fauour to vouchſafe my hearing.

Many moneths haue I ſpent, in ſearch of one of your company called Menſola, whom aboue all things, I entirely affect. I haue long ſought her: but ſhe (I think) to

cruell flyeth from me, as a supposed enemy. Wherefore I pray you (deuine Nimphs) learne me to qualliſie the raging paine I endure, and the meane to obtaine ſight of her, whoſe abſence is a hell to my mind.

Thus ended he, and as the ſilly ſheepe, ſurpriſed with the ſodaine comming of the Woolfe ready to aſſaile them, quake and tremble for feare of his cruelty, ſo were theſe Virgins diſmayed at the vnlooked for ariuall of the Youth: Wherefore haſtely taking their bowes, they aroſe, and fled to the thick of the Forreſt, with ſuch ſwiftnes, that in ſhort time he loſt ſight of them: Yet purſuing after, hee willed them to ſtay.

Ah faire Nimphs (ſayd he) think not my comming is to offend you any way, much leſſe to doe you harme or outrage. Flie not then: but ſtay, and liſten to me your friend, deſirous onely to know what ſhe is, for whom I endure this trauaile.

But what auailes it (poore ſoule) ſo affectedly to follow and importune them, which flie, and diſdaine to heare or giue thée aunſwere? Leaue off and let them goe, for by them canſt thou profit nothing. When Affrican had thus loſt ſight of the Nimphs, he left off to follow further, and reſting his wearie limbs againſt a Trée, was troubled aboue meaſure.

What ſhall I doe (ſayd hee) ſéeing theſe troubleſome creatures will not deigne to heare me? May I hope for any good by them? No truly, for ſéeing my humble prayers cannot moue them to pitty, and ſhew me what ſhe is, and her abode, whom I ſo highly fauour: of force muſt I liue hereafter in diſcontented darknes, bereft of all light, and drencht in the Gulfe of diſpaire (as I am) none pitying my paine and deadly torment.

How

CHAP. IX.

¶ Howe Affrican founde the faire Menſola in the Forreſt, and of the feare and danger he had to be ſlaine.

THis young Louer, after many complaints for his beloued Menſola, ſeeing the night approach, and fearing the fiercenes of the wild Beaſtes in the twy-light euer ranging for their prayes, returned home to his houſe. The night paſt, and the day newly approching, he repaird againe to the Woods, euer ſeeking, but neuer finding his beloued Menſola.

Long continued hee this queſt without comfort, vntill Fortune (willing to cheere his ſorrowful mind with hope of ſome enſuing good, and to glad him with the ſight of his moſt deſired obiect) one day brought him into a Thicket, where from the height of a Rock he eſpied ſixe Nimphes, ſporting themſelues on the Plaine in the midſt of a large and greene Meddowe, decked with fragrant flowers, yelding a ſweet odour, pleaſant and very delightfull. Among theſe virgins was Menſola, whoſe excelling beautie made her well-knowne aboue the reſt: her preſence ſo raviſhed his ſences, that power wanted to retaine himſelfe, but that he halted with great ſpeede towards them. No ſooner had the Nimphes eſpied him comming, but taking their weapons, they fled ſtraight into the Forreſt, whom flying hee purſued, and ſpake as followeth.

Worthy Nimph (ſaid he) in honour of the Gods I pray thee ſtay, and liſten to his wordes, who loues thee better then himſelfe. Fly mee not, who haue long ſince ſubiected my will to thine, and made thee ſole Miſtres of my hart. Oh Menſola, whom I eſteeme as the thing moſt deere vnto mee, turne I pray thee, and behold, the cruell and exceſſiue torment, which day and night I ſuffer continually for

thy loue. I follow not to wrong thée, but my care is onelie to please thee. Tis loue and not hate that forceth this pursute: not as the Faulcon after the fearefull Partridge, or the Wolfe after the harmlesse Lambe, but as one, whom thou my life, my hope & health, hast power to commaund. If it please thee to yelde mee that place in thy hart which mine desireth, I vow and sweare (my sweet friend) by the power of the Gods, I will espouse, loue, and honour thee, as her, in whom I haue placed my chiefe felicitie, the sole Gouernesse and Mistres of my thoughts. Why then wilt thou causeleese so vngratefully hasten my death for so pure good-will? But say sweet Nimphe, delights thou to see me perrish for thy loue? Shall disdaine be the guerdon of my loue? If thou be thus cruell to such as loue thée, what wilt thou be to those that hate thee? In flying from mee, thou resemblest a Beare newly robbed of her whelps, who led with brutish furie, rauens for reuenge on that she next meeteth, not any way offending her. And though my wordes beare no waight with thee, nor my plaints bee ought regarded, at least, take pittie on thy selfe, and leaue further running.

But when he saw his sweet and louing words not esteemed, he staid himselfe, and beholding her flying, said. I beseech thée (oh Iupiter) seeing she will not aunswere to my prayers, that the high and steepe Mountaines where shee palleth, may become plaine before her, the hard and craggie Rocks, soft and pleasant sands: the Hedges, Groues, Trees, reedes, bushes, and such like sets, may be Violets and sweete flowers, that they hurt not with too much hast her flying feete. And you oh Gods inhabiting these shadie Groues, (if euer young Damsell found fauour with you) let her now I pray you feele it. And for my part, sith shee disdaines my speech, I wil leaue her in peace without further trouble. Goe then sweet Nimph at thy ease, and arriue where thou best likest, though thy absence procure me vntimely

vntimely death, alreadie feeling in my entrails the euill that by little and little conſumes away my life.

The faire *Menſola* in her courſe liſtened to his words, and the better to vnderſtand him, lagged behinde her companions, and returned backe to behold him, which once noted of the youth, hee approched her nérer and nérer: but the Nimph appauled with ſuddaine feare, ſtaide, and aduauncing herſelfe forward, caſt at him a Dart which ſhee bare in her hand, but guided with ſo great good happe, that milling him at whom ſhe aimed, ſhe ſtrooke the ſame into a huge and maſſie Oake: that done, ſhe followed her companions diligently, marking how the youth demeand himſelfe.

Affrican ſéeing the mortall Dart brandiſh in the tree, greatly admired her hardineſſe that caſt it, notwithſtanding, reioycing that he had eſcaped the danger, hee left of the perrilous purſute of this mayden company, yet ſtill fixing his eyes where his hart was ſeated, hee vttered his griefe as followeth. Would God this yron had pierced my hart and freed the tree, ſeeing thou deſireſt my death, ſo had thy right hand executed thy will, and ended my ſorrowe at once: which wrong would well haue pleaſed mee, ſith thy hande had finiſhed and extinct the burning flame that ſcorcheth and torments me for thy loue. This ſaid, he conuayd the Nimph with his eyes ſo farre as his ſight would ſuffer him, which once loſt, he renued his former ſorrowes.

And as a ſmall ſparke of fire in a dry and withered buſh blaſted with the winde, becomes a great flame in a moment, ſo fared it with Affrican, who hauing loſt his *Menſola*, the weake & feéble coale of loue almoſt quenched with the water of ſorrow and continuall torment, was at an inſtant ſo kindled with the wind of affection, that ſetting all feare of danger apart, he determined to follow her. Thus reſolued, he purſued them a freſh, and lifting vp his head, loked after, with great deſire to ſée where ſhe was becom,

fearefullie ranging nowe one way, then another, in vnknowne and vncouth paths, at length returned with like sorrow as before.

If Fortune (said hée) had hidde her in these thicke and shadie Groues, it would please me to follow in her search, the rather for that I doubt to sée her of long time againe: And séeking in place where she is not, in vaine shall be my trauaile, so that I doubt whether to goe or stay.

In this manner stode he long, till perceauing the Sun to decline, and the night at hand: and calling to mind his Fathers report, of the deaths of many who busied themselues to follow ỳ Damsels of Diana, he retired. Againe, loue made him carelesse of Dianas power, little estéeming death, so that Fortune would first fauour him to accomplish his desire, Death then thought he, would yield him more content. Thus plunged in sorrow, and troubled with diuers strange conceits, he became so amazed that that all counsaile failed him, not knowing what to doe: yet the darknes of the night at hand, made him hast homewards, least feare of his long absence might brède some sorrow to his aged Father, who hartily attended his comming. Thus passed he on, oft times returning, and with great affection, regarding each Trée by the way, dreaming still after *Mensola*.

CHAP. X.

¶ How Affrican ranging the Woods to seeke *Mensola*, did sacrifice to the Gods to appease the Goddesse Venus: and of the miracle there happened.

Affrican ariuing at his Fathers house secretly entred his Chamber vnséene of any: where casting himselfe vpon his bed, his passions was such, as death was more pleasant to him then life. Sometime he sore sighed, and lamented,

lamented, accuſing his cruell fortune: then curſing the ſeaſon that firſt preſented to his ſight ſo ſtrange and cruell an obiect, and againe mocked at Venus, and her vayne behests.

Affrican continuing in theſe laments, his Mother in a Garden nére ioyning to the Chamber where he lay, heard the complaints of her Sonne, to whom ſhe haſted, ſuppoſing he was ſicke, and finding him in that plight, demaunded where he had béene, and the cauſe alſo of his déepe ſighing.

Affrican at firſt appauled with feare to be diſcouered, yet taking hart a freſh, he ſubtilly aunſwered, that falling he had hurt his left ſide: yet not ſo, but that reſt (he hoped) would cure him, or (at leaſt) giue him eaſe: praying her alſo to depart, for her ſpéech (he ſaid) did much anoy him. The good Woman ſorrowing her Sonnes miſchance, and carefull of his quiet, departed.

When Alcumena was gone, and Affrican alone left in the Chamber, he renued his former complaints, and became ſo troubled in ſpirit that no place for reſt appeared. I ſée my caſe (ſaid he) ſorts from bad to worſe: For the burning flame, cauſe of my ſorrow, quite conſumes me by little, and little. And what remedie? None ſurely, but *Menſola*, who hath power to giue me life, or death, war, or peace, reſt, or trauaile, as the ſwéet obiect, beſt liking to my ſorrowfull eyes. Thou onely (O ſwéeteſt) can giue me pleaſure or paine: thou onely canſt giue me torment or reſt: thou onely canſt giue me ioy or ſorrow, remedy, or diſpaire, and helpe, or hurt, in my déepe diſtreſſe. Oh Venus, my too much truſt to thy ſwéete perſwaſions hath deceiued mée: Didſt thou not vaunt to mee by dreame, that thy power had ſubdued the Gods to thy will? What credite can I giue thee, when a woman, ſimple and forceleſſe (ſaue onely guided by nature) rebels againſt thee, deſpiſeth thy fire, and makes thy ſonnes ſhotte vnprofitable. It

now

now resteth that thy force is weakenes, thy pollicie foolishnes, Cupids arrowes without vertue, and thy brond without heate. Thou thoughts (it may be) to subdue her to thy becke without resistance, as thou didst me: and to pierce her Icie hart with like heate as ÿ inflamidst mine: But thou art deceiued, for she well knoweth how to breake thy Darts and quench thy flame: yet am I poore caitife glued in her snares, without hope to escape, or gaine thy fauour. Hap yet as it will, (if no worse befall me,) but iustly doo I feare, least the fierie thoughts of loue, burning in my mind day and night, will soone force my sorrowfull bodie to the graue. Oh Atropos, fatall Goddesse, ayde mee I pray thee, seeing Venus hath deceiued me, and strike (if thou please) with thy sharpe cutting knife, the tender thred of my life a sunder, to sweeten the bitternesse of my griefe: discontentedly els shall I liue hereafter against my will. If thou grant my request, thou shalt greatly content me, but much more if thou breake the twist wherewith this troublesome loue hath bound me.

Affrican dwelling in these moanes, weeping and sighing without intermission, the God of sleepe (as it seemed) pittying the Youth, or els requested by some other, opened the doores of his darke Valley, and entering the Chamber where Affrican lay, annoynted his eyes with sacred liquor, of such vertue, that wearied with trauaile and ouercome with sorrow, hee fell presently into a sweete and pleasant slumber, giuing some rest thereby to his troubled spirits.

Alcumena as yet ignorant of the cause of her Sonnes euill, supposing his side was bruised as hee saide, whilst he slept prepared a Bath, stored with many hearbes of great vertue: intending to cause him enter the same when he awaked. This deuise well liked the good olde Griffon also, but the sore could not be cured with such plaisters.

After long sleepe, Affrican awoake, and calling her to minde, who (the day past) denied him speech, hee throbbed from

from his ſorrowfull breaſt many deepe and ſcalding ſighes, and began to renue his former complaints, but his fathers ſuddaine arriuall ſtaide him, who after ſome wordes paſt, cauſed him enter the Bath, which his good Mother ſo carefully had prouided. But oh pittifull Father, thou with thy wife art deceiued, and knoweſt not (though thou be old and wiſe) the ſpring of amorous loue: no hearbs nor rootes can heale his wound, nor can it yet be ſeene, being ſeated in the middle of the hart.

Affrican remained certaine dayes in the houſe, careleſſe of his Fathers flock vnder his charge, and much more forgetfull of himſelfe, ſuch was the power of loue that guided his deſires. And when hee found himſelfe ſolitarie & alone, thinking on her ỳ cauſed his trouble, hee vttered his griefe with ſuch ſorrowfull regrets, as no hart (I think) ſo cruel, but would haue melted with pitty towards him. Thus long continuing, hee waxed in the end pale and wan: and ſo changed, that hardly could one know him without good aduiſement, which doubled the olde mans ſorrowe, ſeeing his ſonne endure ſuch torments, and the ſame to augment daily, without power to redreſſe it.

It chaunced that Affrican one day walking to his Fathers flock, feeding faſt by in the Mountaine, ſenceleſſe (as it were) wandring this and that way in the Forreſt, his head hanging on his breaſt, careleſſe what way hee tooke, he approched a faire and liuely Fountaine, whoſe ſiluer ſtreame tumbled from a little Rock into a pleaſant Vally, ſtored with many great and ſhady trees. The water whereof, kept in by many great Rocks, ranged below, ſerued the wild and ſauage Beaſts to drinke at very commodiouſlie. The youth ſitting downe at the roote of a Fountaine, and deeply diſcourſing with himſelfe, beheld in the cleere and calme water (as in a glaſſe) his owne viſage, young, faire, ſweet, and feminine, whereat he tooke great pleaſure, ſuppoſing it had beene ſome Damſell tranſformed to another

shape, but being better aduised, began to sorrow his owne estate, cursing the day wherein his froward fate presented to his sight the cause of his great euill, and whom to loue he was forced, mauger his wil so deeply entred into his hart. Oh happy Beasts (said hee) for Venus I see prefers you in fauour far beyond me: The Cowe moued by verie instinct of nature, takes Bull gladly, without running, or shewing any appearance of discontent: the Ewe attends the Ramme without flying: the Goate her male: the Foules and each beast besides, their like. You kisse, embrace, and dally with each other, as nature hath taught you, without suspition, and increase, to the great content of your owners. You sing at your pleasure, liue at your own measure: skip to and fro for delight, and feed when your appetite seruеth, but contrariwise, I feele nought els but cõtinual torment, day and night attending death, without one minute of rest. Then entertayning his sorrow with many deepe sighes, he beganne his laments afresh, distilling from his eyes such streames of teares, that it seemed a Riuer issued from his head. Yet calling to minde the Goddesse promise, hee was straight way rauished with a suddaine hope of ensuing good.

Either Venus (said he) shall be a lyar, or performe her promise: but it may be, other waighty affaires let her to remember mee for the present. I will therefore sacrifice vnto her, and make her mindfull of that shee is bounde by promise and oath to performe. And perhaps my obeysance and humblenes may moue her to pitty me. This ended, he arose, and chosing an open place in the top of the Mountaine, from whence he might easily without let behold the bright and cleere heauens, hee gathered an heape of stones together in forme of an Altar, and put thereon wood, cut, so much as he thought needfull: then going to his Fathers flock nere pasturing in the Mountaine, hee toke a white and fatte Lambe, whom hee brought to the newe builded

Altar,

Altar, and there killed, ſhedding the blood vpon the heapes of wood lying on the Altar: and after deuiding it into foure peeces, put them on the foure corners thereof. Then kindled hee a fire with tynder which hee brought with him, to burne and conſume the ſacrifice, in honour of Venus: hoping ſhe wold get him fauour of his beſt beloued, to learne him the euent of his enterprize, and what hee might aſſuredly hope for.

By this time had the flame almoſt couered the ſacrifice, when Affrican kneeling downe with great humbleneſſe, lifting vp his eyes with his hands, ſtretched towards heauen, addreſſed his prayers to the Princes of loue in thys manner.

O ſacred Goddeſſe, whoſe force farre paſſeth humaine power, I humbly pray thy Dietie gently to grant my requeſt: Thou knoweſt, (O diuine Princeſſe) how willingly I yeelded to the ſtroke of thy ſonne, without reſiſtance, and (as deuoted to thy ſeruice) haue ſubiected my necke to thy yoke, what time I ſawe Diana with her Nimphes in the Vally of the Pond. And how my ouer-curious regard to one of them hath ſince cauſed my inſupportable torment, bereft quite of all hope of better hap. Thou knoweſt alſo howe frowarde Fortune hath euer contraried my deſires. And you great trees growing in this Forreſt. You Mountaines and Vallies here about, and you wilde and fierce Beaſtes haunting the ſame, witnes with mee my plaints and pittifull moanes: and if that ſuffiſe not, my pale and white viſage, altered from his wonted colour, will rightly record my ſorrowes. Enflame then I pray thee with thy diuine bronde, her frozen hart, for whoſe loue I languiſh and die, ſeeing thou art the cauſe therof, and thou erſt commaundedſt me ſleeping: encouraging my minde to proſecute this queſt, with aſſurance to ſpeed, mauger Dianas malice. Let it pleaſe thee (ſacred Princes) to make Menſola feele her hart pierced in my fauour, with the golden arrow

of thy Sonne, that a simpathie of perpetuall affection may appeare betweene vs. And if thou deigne not to grace me with so much good, nor yet lend thine eyes to behold my sorrowes, (at least) grant, that she who spurnes at my life, may not glory in my death. And shew me moreouer some present signe, to witnesse the acceptablenes of my prayers.

Scarce had he ended, but loking toward the Alter, hee perceiued the fire to burne with great furie, yelding a shrill sound, and very fearefull. From the middest wherof, the young Lamb sacrificed and cut in peeces, stode vpon his feete: and gasing too and fro, thrice urged and bleated with great vehemencie, and immediatly returned againe to Cinders.

CHAP. XI.

¶ How Affrican disguised himselfe like a Damsell, to deceaue the Nimphs of Diana, and how he slew a Bore with his Dart, in presence of his *Mistresse*.

THis miracle cheared vp the sorrowfull mind of Affrican, and gaue him good hope that his humble prayers were accepted: for which he thanked the Goddesse with great deuotion, expecting spædy ease of his contagious euill. These and such like ceremonies ended, perceauing the night to approach, he returned to his house, far better contented then before, and so ioyfull, that his face, paled with his former affects, returned in short space to his liuelie and wonted colour: for the desire he had, to achiue his begun enterprise, prickt so liuely his passioned hart, that hardly could he rest, still deuising how he might best deceaue her, whom he so entirely loued.

After many purposes presenting them selues, this one best pleased him, and (as he thought) meetest to attaine his

his deſire, to wit, that being attired like a Damſell, and conuerſing with Menſola, and other Nimphs of Diana, till opportunitie ſerued, he might eaſely deceaue them: the rather in regard of his youth and tender age, as yet beardleſſe, reſembling a Mayde of fifteene yeares, as not long before he had ſeene him ſelfe in the Fountaine. It reſted now to prouide apparrell fit for his purpoſe, and his Mother he thought (though ignorant of the cauſe) was moſt meete to ſupply that want. Thus with like fantaſies and many doubts, he ſpent that day and night following.

The next day no ſoner appeared, but Affrican furniſhed him ſelfe, with a white Gowne, & other neceſſaries meete for his intended maſke: and hauing truſſed them in a little Fardell, conuayed it priuily vnder his cloake, and vnſeene of any, went forth to a Caue in the Mountaine adioyning, where vnclothing him ſelfe, he put on the habite of a woman, ſo fit and exquiſitly made, that he ſeemed a young and beautifull Damſell. That done, he diſpoſed of the reſt: and hanging at his backe a Quiuer of arrowes, with a bow in his hand, he thruſt him ſelfe into the Forreſt, fully reſolued, that (if he could finde Menſola alone) ſhe ſhould not lightly eſcape him.

Yet had not long trauailed in the thicknes of the Forreſt, but Phœbus with his heauenly Chariot, began to ſhew his golden face in the Eaſt, making red the top of the Mountaine, with her bright rayes towards the Weſt: when Affrican thus diſguiſed, ſeeing by the ſhadow, his counterfaite ſo perfect, began to forget him ſelfe, and ſuppoſed that Nature had changed his manly ſhape, into a feminine quallity, thereby aſſuring him ſelfe to ſpeede the rather in his begun enterprize, and ſo walked towards Floſſolan.

As Affrican mounted the height of a ſteepe hill, he heard in the Valley below, a great noyſe, and loking a ſide, beheld where many Nimphs courſed a huge griſly Boare,

wounded with many arrowes, which the beast beare sticking in his body. This Boze was so chafed and weary, that hardly could hee goe faster then a sote pace, whom the Nimphs pursued with womanish shzikes: but the Boze hauing gotten aduantage of ground far befoze them, and resting him against a Tree, fled after with moze swiftnes, when he saw the Virgins appzoch him: so that then he was out of their danger, they chosing the height of the hill, and the Boze, the way that Affrican came.

Now was Affrican shzouded behind a Tree, to behold the Chace, and the demeanoz of the Damsels, almost faint foz wearines: but seeing the beast escaped them, and his Mistresse pzesent, toke currage by the occasion offred, and aduancing him selfe without feare in the way where the Boze was comming, stroke an arrow into his bzeast, with such foze and liuelines, that the beast weakned with his fozmer wounds, and feeling him selfe attainted, with pzesent death, tumbled dowme dead vpon the grasse.

The Nimphs (amongst whom Mensola was) seeing the Boze slaine by an vnknowne Virgine, very faire, & of good feature, entertained her hartely, and pzayed her to accompanie them, vntill they had bzoken vp, and made ready some part of ỹ pzay foz their Dinner: but Affrican, though nothing moze desiring, yet to couer his affection, fayned vzgent occasions else-where and refused to staie: but after some denials, best fitting to beguile this mayden companie, he accozded, chiefely at request of her, whom he most fauoured aboue all creatures.

Whilst some of them dzessed the Boze, others made fire to rost some part. And others sparing to spend time without exercise, set vp a marke against an old Dake, to try whose skill was best, and could shoote nœrest. Then began they to shoote by ozder, but of the Nimphes, *Mensola* with her Dart was neerest. Affrican also, pzessed by them to the like spozts, hitte the white, and therefoze had the pzice

and

and praiſe of the reſt, chiefely of Menſola, who at that inſtant was wounded with the pricke of affection, towards the vnknowne Damſell, to whom from that time ſhe bare a fellow-like and honeſt loue, as well for her louely & modeſt countenaunce, as alſo, for that ſhe was propper, beautifull and vertuous.

Venus alſo by her ſecrete influence, well knowing (at her pleaſure,) to ioyne two creatures in one ſimpathie of affection, began now her operation, and ſo preuailed, that at all ſports with the Bow, *Menſola* and Affrican had the price, which ſo inflamed the tender hart of this young virgine with affectionate lyking to Affrican, that hee ſeing himſelfe ſo highly fauoured of his Miſtres, ſought euer that might beſt delight her. This ſport ended, and dinner alſo readie prepared, they were inuited by the reſt to ſitte downe circle-wiſe on the greene graſſe, ſhadowed with the branches of great trees, faire and very delectable.

Their firſt courſe was a haunch of Veniſon roſted and interlaced with Laurell leaues, a ſide & coller of the ſame, the ribbes alſo boyled vpon the coales, layd on the barke of Trees cut in many peeces, ſeruing in ſteed of plate, for other veſſel had they none: and when any one thirſted, they went to the Fountaine to drink. The laſt courſe was ſundry ſorts of fruites, gathered of the Trees in the Forreſt. And in ſteede of Breade they had Cheſnuts, for the art of tyllage was not then vſed in that Country. At this feaſt *Menſola* ſeated herſelfe by Affrican, whom (ſuppoſing he had bẽn a woman) ſhe entirely loued.

The repaſt ended, with the generall content of all, they aroſe from the banquet, and becauſe the ſeaſon was hote, the Nimphes ſorted themſelues in troopes, to walke ſome heere, ſome there, ſinging & reioycing together with great melody that it was pleaſure to beholde, and then retired againe, ſome to the Fountaine, and others to the Groue, according as they beſt liked.

Now

Now did *Mensola*, African, and two others, determine to pursue their chace till night, and therefore walked in the Forrest towards Flossolan, beguiling the time with many pleasant deuises: wherein African (as his turne serued) graced himselfe so well, that each one hearde him willingly, and deeply fauoured his honest demeanor: but Mensola became so amorous towards him, that shee coulde not leaue his company. Her loue notwithstanding was honest, for she verily supposed he had been a Damsell. What minde African bare also towards her, I passe ouer, as a thing before declared, and reitteration is superfluous. But (subtile as he was) hee smothered the fire so couertlie that none could perceiue it: yet was hee greatly discontented, that hauing spent most part of the day in walking ỹ Forrest, onely letted by two Nimphes which held him companie, he had not affected his desire.

If I should (said he) manifest my loue in their presence, and declare what I am, I should slaunder her greatly, and make my selfe hopelesse to attaine their company heereafter. And attempting violence, (I feare) they woulde take parts against me, and slay me with their mortall arrowes. And if I faile this day, Fortune I doubt wil not fauour me againe, at least in long time, with like opportunitie. What then remaineth? surely I know not, but to spend forth the small remainder of my sorrowful dayes in continuall complaints. O Venus, I pray thee in regard of those sweete embracings, in each like Forrest with thy faire Adonis, to further mee in this vrgent businesse, neerely concerning me: so wil I crowne thy statue each day this Monthy with a Chaplet of swéet smelling flowers, and burne vpon thine Altar, the finest Incence of Arabia.

How

CHAP. XII.

¶ How Affrican diſguiſed as a *Mayd*, deflowred the faire Menſola vnwilling in the valley of the Pond.

After many complaints which this diſguiſed Louer ſmothered in his mind. Fortune pittying his continuall paſſions, long ranging in the Woods by vnknowne paths: brought them to a Valley ſeated among many little Mountains, decked with greene graſſe, flowers, and hearbs, and garniſhed with ſundry ſorts of great Trées.

From one of thoſe Mountaines, iſſued a ſmall ſiluer ſtreame, running calmly by the plaine: and in the midſt of the Valley, ſtayed it ſelfe in a large and ample Lake, but very pleaſant: and the water ſo cleare, that the fiſhes therein might eaſely be ſéene ſwimming, and but checking the ſtomack at the déepeſt. The Pond cleare, without mud, ſlime or other filth, gaue ſafe enterance into the ſame: So that the ſmall grauell (painted with diuers colours) appeared lyke to a faire pauement in the bottome. To conclude, ſuch was the pleaſure of the place, that it ſéemed a Paradice of delight.

The two Damſels which accompanied Menſola, beholding this place, ſo deſert and ſolitary, and ſo aunſwerable to their humors, for recreation only diſpoiled their clothes, to bath themſelues, and waſh the ſweat from their chafed bodies: That done, they began to chaſe the fiſhes in the water, ſome whereof, they caught with great delight. *Menſola* (as then not vnclothed) yet willing to take part with them of thoſe ſports, ſpake to Affrican as followeth.

My ſwéet friend (ſaid ſhe) ſhall we alſo waſh our ſelues, or what elſe ſhall we doe? Doe as you pleaſe (aunſwered Affrican) for I am not ſo chafed with heate, but that

I can well brooke it: Also I feele my head yet paine me, by reason of my late bathing. This excuse he coyned, fearing by dispotting himselfe, to be discouered. And seeing you will not (sayd shee) no more will I: but what shall we doe? Let vs repose our selues (if you please) vnder the shadow of these great Trees, vntill the extremity of the heate be past, and then each one may retire in the colenes of the euening.

This motion so well pleased African, as nothing could doe more: wherefore, taking the Virgine by the arme, they went ioyfully to rest, in a shadowie place, at discent of the Mountaine: where arguing Mensola stretched her selfe along vpon the grasse, and African sat by, highlie troubled at the presence of the two bathing Nimphs, who hindred the effecting of his ioyes, yet in fine, it sorted to his wished end: For when these Nimphs had well refreshed them selues in the bath, and taken of the fishes as best lyked them: they came forth of the water, and attired them selues againe: and seeing Mensola resolued to dewse still with the strange Nimph, and had no will as yet to returne: they departed to prepare for supper, leauing Mensola contented, because she had company, her abode not farre thence distant, and the Sunne as yet very high. This parting of the Nimphs well liked African, as the thing he hartily wished: yet staying till they were far off from sight or hearing, surprised with loue, began affectedly to behold her, who securely desired to sleepe.

Now was the season hote, and the better to refresh her selfe with the colenes of ỳ wind, which blew with a pleasant gale, she had losed her clothes before, so that her round and white teats appeared halfe bare, seated like to bowles vpon her Ivory breast: to conclude, an obiect able to reuiue the dead spirits of a Litargious man. This sight so kindled the flame of desire in the Youth: that power wanted to restraine his hands, but thrust them into the bosome

of

of the Nimph, and kiſſed her with great affection. *Menſola* (whoſe gentle hart ſuſpected no guile) indured it with patience, ſuppoſing them familiar toyes of fœliſh youth, oft vſed among them of like ſexe: but fœling her ſelfe vncouered, and his hand put vnder her Gowne: leaue off (ſayd ſhee) and be quiet, for I am diſpoſed to ſleepe. What wilt thou doe (putting backe his hand mounting too high) art thou fœliſh, or haſt thou loſt thy wits? What pleaſure takes thou to approach ſo neere, & diſcouer me: or delights thou ſo foundly to handle me, being a woman; and ſo want power to aunſwer thy content? Repoſe then thy ſelfe (I pray thee) elſe walke and take the ayre: and if thou finde thy ſelfe oft altered: goe coole, and waſh thee in the Riuer, and let me reſt. This ſayd, and cloſing againe her eyes, ſhe turned away her head, leaſt the other ſhold importune her with kiſſing.

Affrican bereft of all power to commaund him ſelfe: ſeeing his happy Fates had offered ſo good opportunitie, and fœling the heate of nature incite him thereunto, delayde not: but prepared to affect his deſire. *Menſola* hereat was greatly diſmayed, to ſee her ſelfe vncouered, and ſo ſtraightly imbraced: but more did ſhe wonder fœling the bullets batter at her Caſtle gate, and her ſelfe aſſailed ſo hotly by him (who vnder a Maiden counterfaiting) ſought to deflower her, bent all her force to reſiſt him, and cried out, as her laſt refuge: but in vaine: For he had not long laid ſeege to this hold, and beaten at her golden gate, the aſſault beeing fierce, and reſiſtance feeble: but the Aſſailant entred, and demeand him ſelfe ſo valiantly, that hee proued Maiſter of the Fort, and the vanquiſhed forced to endure the will of the conquerour.

This ſport ended, *Menſola* haſtily ſat downe, at the root of a greene Tree, and with a fell and angry viſage, beholding him, who had ſo finely deceaued her quite bereft of ſpeech, furiouſly roſe vp, and taking in her hand a Dart,

which she wontedly carried, fired the one ende thereof in the ground, intending to cast her selfe thereon, and so to ende her sorrow and shame at once: But Affrican lightly taking her by the arme, and compelling her to sit downe where she was before, stayed the effecting of this pretended Tragedy: And fast imbracing her least she should escape him, he cheered her vp with many comfortable words as followeth.

My sweete delight (sayd hée) pardon (I pray thee) this outrage: for my attempt was forced by commaund of the Goddesse Venus, assuring me happily to enioy thy Loue. Cease then thy plaints, be merry, and friendly receaue him, who is, and will be euer thine. Sith thou hast so badly deceaued me (aunswered *Mensola*) poore and ill aduised Damsell: and mauger my will, bereft me of that I most estéemed, leaue nowe, and let me goe: and thine eyes shall witnes the desire I haue, to ende my vnhappy life; by making my hands ministers of my vntimelie death.

My choyce flower of beauty (sayd Affrican) darest thou impugne the will of the Gods, who long since appoynted thée for me? Wilt thou shewe such cruelty to thine owne life, séeing without thée I cannot liue, more then fish without water, man without ayre, or beast without pasture? Of this be assured, that if thou wrong thy selfe with the least harme, for my sake, I will strangle my selfe in thy presence. Leaue then, this foolish thought, this ouer rash and euill minde: and liue (at least) for my loue: And trust me (sweete hope) thou shalt finde none breath, to equall mine affection towards thée. And if this will not content thée: nor that thou art minded to pitty my passions, delay not my death I pray thée: that thy hand reuenging thy receaued wrongs, thy hart may liue at quiet.

Mensola listning to his words, and beholding the aboundance of teares that tumbled from his wofull eyes,

who

who so louingly imbraced her : let fall her head vpon his breast, so perplexed in minde, as if death had already ceazed her, and thus continued long without speaking. Affrican with his right hand supported her, and with the other wiped her moist face, besprent with teares, and swéetlie kissing her with a hart fraught with sorrow and passionat, said. Oh heauenly influences, haue you thus conspired, to giue and bereaue me at one instant, that my hart best loued, serued and intended to cherrish as my chéefest delight, making her dumbe and sencelesse in my presence? By the round seat of Iupiter, and the triple Mace of Neptune I sweare, if she oft miscary, and I the cause of her mishap, mine own hands shall sacrifice my selfe, and yield due punishment for the haynousnes of my fact.

These sorrowfull complaints ended, *M*ensola reuiued, and throbbing from her troubled breast, many déepe and scalding sighs, renued so her former complaints, as though a world of woes had possessed her? Which Affrican noting, and smoothing her disordred heires, and kissing her sweet and louely visage, spake to her as followeth.

Oh fresh Rose (said hee) séest thou not that my life and death, felicitie and mishap rests onely in thée? Am I not prest to accomplish thy commaunds? If thou ioy in my death, I am content, but if thou wilt that I liue, it shall be onely to serue thée: he only dooth embrace thée, who loues thée as his owne soule. Chéere then thy selfe, and appease thy vnreasonable sorrow.

Alas saide *M*ensola, precisely beholding Affrican in the visage, better had I neuer béene borne, or enioyed the benefite of this present life, then to haue taken the habite of Diana, and deuoted my selfe to her profession, or that the furious Bore this day taken had slaine me, to preuent the insuing mischiefe this day befalne me.

Trouble not your selfe (aunswered Affrican) but forget my swéete friend the wrong I haue doone thée: for thy

griefe is my torment, striue not therefore where hope of remedy wanteth. Liue then in peace my ioy, comfort thy selfe, and regard him louinglie, who estæmes and honours thée as his earthly Goddesse, vnwilling euer to attempt what may breede thee dislike. And because thou shalt better credite my words, and that my loue farre exceedes the meane, or that my tongue is able to expresse, I will manifest the cause that boldned me to this attempt.

Foure months said hee, are almost spent, since first beholding thée with Diana at the Fountaine of the Pond, thy exquisite beautie tooke print so deepely in my hart, that my wits haue béene set on worke, to hunt out meanes to manifest my feruent affection towards thée. I leaue to mention in particuler my then secrete couart in the Weares Denne, the euils I endured for thy loue, and the counsaile also which my olde Father (dwelling nére to this Fountaine) oft gaue me, to alienate my mind from affecting the Nimphes of Diana, and how also not long since, I founde thée in the Woods, where cruelly thou cast thy Dart to haue slaine me. Onely I will acquaint thée howe Venus, more curious of my good, then thou hast béene of my life, assured mee (by sléepe) to enioy thée, and taught mee thys meane to counterfaite, as thou seest. To conclude, I let passe many torments and nights spent with sorrowe, all endured for thy loue: wherfore (if I haue any way wronged thee) thou oughtest to excuse me the rather, beeing forced thereto by diuine power, and the same with no intent to offend thée, but onelie to giue vnto my selfe my leng and wished content. It is loue then thou oughtest to accuse, and hold me thy friend excused.

Mensola attending this amorous discourse, was somewhat comforted, and prickt with the golden Dart of Cupid, in regarding her friend speaking with so great affection. Againe, séeing herselfe highly fauoured of a Youth, fresh, young, and beautiful, and who for her loue attempted

such

ſuch matters beyond the reach of his age: felt ſo liuely the impreſſion and heate of loue, enflame her hart before colde and frozen, that breathing forth many bitter ſighes, gaue euident ſhew of Venus opperation.

I well remember (ſaid ſhee) not long ſince I was purſued by one, who grieued me ſo in the end, that to repel the furie of his purſute, I caſt at him my Dart: but I knowe not if it were thou, that haſt ſo finely betrayed mee. Yet ſince I toke vpon me the habite of Diana, I was neuer ſo importuned of any, and would God thou hadſt neuer ſeene me: at leaſt, not found meanes to deceiue me: for hadeſt thou not been, I had ſtill remained in count one of Dianas virgins, whoſe fellowſhip now I ſhall worthily looſe, and further hazard the perrill of my life. And thou (O youth) deepely rooted in my loue, ſhalt be cauſe of my ruine, and thy ſelfe remaine ſafe without danger: But you oh Trees growing in the Mountaine and Forreſts, and you fierce and wild Beaſts haunting theſe ſauage Woods, witneſſe with mee (I pray you) to the Goddeſſe, that I did my beſt to reſiſt him, and ſought reuenge to my power: But what power (alas) had I poore & feeble Damſell, to withſtande thy force? If I might blot out this fault by haſtening mine owne death, the content would be thine, and I forgotten being dead.

This ſaid, Affrican faſt imbraced her in his armes, his face bedewed with teares iſſuing from the fountaine of his eyes, and ſweetly kiſſing her roſie cheekes, replied as followeth. Thinke not (O Nimph moſt deſired) but that my life is, and ſhall be wholy deuoted to thy ſeruice, without leauing thy companie, or any intermiſſion of time. Leaue then (I pray thee) theſe troubled thoughts: for I ſweare by thy diuine beautie, I neyther can, nor will (whilſt I liue) forget thee, purtrayed ſo liuely in my hart: for thy ſweet company is my ſole repaſt, depriued wherof, I can no longer liue.

Thinkeſt

Thinkest thou, I haue any power to loose once sight of this heauenly face: these bright and star-like eyes: these sweet and louely cheekes, decked with Vermilion blush, and thy more then deuine beautie, whose perfection no earthly wight can second? No surely I haue not: but blessed be the yeare, moneth, day, and houre, wherin Nature framed these more then earthly members, excelling each liuing creature else, in exquisite shape and perfect beauty: For thou art onely the cleare welspring of all beautie, mirror of curtesie, and liuely brightnes, defacing each base and obscure thing: to conclude nought wanteth in thee, which eyther minde or body requireth.

Deface not, nor loose then (my sweet friend) by melancholly passions, so faire a thing: but expell all pensiue sorrowes from thy hart, or oft else that may breed thee greefe, seeing the thing past cannot be recalled: let wisdome therfore rule, where necessitie forceth. Cheere then thy selfe (my Loue) and refresh thy dulled spirits: Embrace me (sweet friend) and freely kisse me, least I die with too much affection towards thee.

CHAP. XIII.

¶ The complaints of Mensola after she was deflowred, and how at the second charge with African, she remayned with child of a faire Sonne.

THE speech, demeanour, and sweet embracings of African, wrought so forcibly in the minde of *Mensola*, that she somwhat forgot her sorrowes, seeing it also bootlesse to striue where remedy wanted. Againe loue moouing her, to affect him who highly fauoured her, shee cast her right arme (for fashion sake) about his necke bashing (as it were) to shew her selfe more formall to his requests, and spake as followeth.

Alasse

Alaſſe (ſayd ſhee) what ſhall befall me, my fact once knowne to Diana, I dare not hereafter vſe my wonted Baths, with other the Nimphs of that Goddeſſe, nor yet keepe ſocietie with them as before: for no ſooner ſhall my fault come to their eares, but they will manifeſt the ſame, ſo ſhall I be forced to flie, that ought I moſt to follow. Againe the ſlaughter of my ſelfe (I know) cannot leſſon or alter the quallity of my offence, but augment it rather, as an obiect for each eie to gaze at: yet ſeeing thy words ſound to reaſon, I will change my minde and liue, abandoning my former and more then cruell reſolution: yet will I no way conſent that thou ſtay ſtill in my company: except thou meane to manifeſt my fault, as yet couart to the world: for I may be ſtill deemed a Mayde, as this morning I was: but thy long ſtay may bewray thy counterfaite, and happily cauſe thy death, with infamie to my ſelfe, although I meane to accompany them no more then needs I muſt.

I pray thee therefore (O Youth) deepely rooted in my loue, leaue off to frequent my company hereafter: ſo ſhall I contentedly pardon the outrage thou haſt done me, prouided that thou keepe my ſecrets. Goe hence then (I pray thée) and leaue me alone, to learne by my former harmes, to better guide my ſelfe from thine, and ſuch like ſubtill baits hereafter.

Affrican perceauing the Nimphs ſorrowes now ſomewhat quallified, (though ſtill aſhamed of the fact) thought not ſo to leaue her, but reſolued to make a reaſonable accord betweene them or he departed, and therefore kiſſing her, ſayd.

O freſh Roſe (deuinely coloured) in whom I haue placed my whole deſire and happines, knoweſt thou not yet, the exceſſiue greatnes of my loue, & how I ioy in nought elſe but thee? How thinkeſt thou then, ſhall I leaue thée, whoſe abſence may onely bring me preſent death, and

presence life: And where I am forced by thy commaund, to leaue thee for a time, hardly shall I euer see thee heereafter, if thou still continue thus passionate, but shall endure torment intollerable: which to preuent, and that our suddaine parting bring vs not to vntimely death: yield me (I pray) this content to goe with me to my Fathers house neere adioyning, where thou shalt be serued of me, and honoured of my Parents, far beyond the account of their owne Daughter: And if my presence there anoy thee, I will depart thence else where at thy pleasure, ioying notwithstanding, that my hap sorted so well, to finde thee with child by me. Mensola supposing her fault not yet publique disliked of this motion.

I will not now (sayd she) leaue to follow Diana; or renounce the purity of my profession, to conuerse with men: For had I been willing (before I entred this order) to haue spent my youth in spinning woll, and other such like Womanish exercises, with my Mother and Sisters, and to marry with those that hartily sought me, I should highly haue pleased my Father (whose chiefe darling I was) and greatly sorrowed at my Nimphall habite. Let me therefore intreate (if my intreaty may oft preuaile with thee) and adiure thee, by the loue thou beares me, and made thee commit this outrage towards my person, to depart home to thy house, and let me goe. And I sweare by him, who pierced thy hart with his golden arrowe (as thou sayest) that my loue shall euer remaine firme towards thee, with this content onely that I rest to be thine.

If I knewe (aunswered Affrican) that thy hart and tongue agreed, I should be cleared from all suspition: but feare onely to faile of thy company hereafter, makes me vnwilling to leaue (as thou commaundest.) Feare not (sayd Mensola) for I will oft repaire to this place, where thou maist see and speake with me, or else wheres at thy pleasure. And assuredly will I hold promise: for thou hast

so

ſo faſt linked me in thy bonds, that nothing ſhall let me, to yield thée thy wiſhed content.

Affrican perceauing the effects of Cupids operation, in the tender hart of his beloued *Menſola*: who now began to féele the force, of the inuiſible and amorous fire of Venus, reioyced greatly at theſe words: and rauiſhed with the ſwéet ſpéech of his Miſtris, he embraced her yet more ſtrictly then before, and ſwéetly kiſſing her ſayd. Séeing (my ſwéet hope) thou delights to be ſolitary (at leaſt) without my company: reaſon wils me to yield where it pleaſeth thée to commaund: yet before our parting, grace me with this fauour, in token of our mutuall loue, that knowing how affectedly I loue thée, what Art and pollicie I vſed, to compaſſe and gaine thy fauour, (oh bright Loadſtarre of my hart, and now for thy pleaſure muſt leaue thée:) I may once kiſſe and ſwéetly embrace thée againe, ſéeing time and opportunity ſeruеth, and afterwards I will depart contentedly for thy liking, and to morrow returne hither to ſée thée, as thou haſt promiſed.

What other pleaſure will thou take of me (anſwered *Menſola*) then that thou haſt already had? Sufficeth not that is paſt, but thou will haue more? Content thy ſelfe for the preſent (I pray thée) and let me goe (if thou oft eſtéeme of my loue) ſéeing the night approcheth, and happily we may be eſpied of ſome.

The former pleaſure I haue had of thée (anſwered Affrican) hath béene ſo mixt with bitternes, teares, and ſtrife: that more aptly, may it be called a violent furie, then any ſweet content: But now ſith comfort hath expeld ſorrow, ſwéeter will be our pleaſure, and far exceéde the former.

Thou oughteſt not add worſe to bad (ſaid Menſola:) for if Diana ſhall vnderſtand, that the fault committed was mauger my wil, my puniſhment may be the leſſe. Depart therfore (I pray thée) & let me goe alſo leaſt we be eſpied.

Who shall make knowne (said African) our fact pass, or what we intend, to Diana, if not our selues? And I assure thee for my part, I will as charily keepe it secrete, as mine owne life. Moreouer, if thou denie mee my wished delight, thine eyes shall witnes my wrack in thy presence. pitty then my passions (sweet Nimph) and let mee not die for thy loue.

This said, hee renued his former kissing and other dalliance, as any man of spirit would haue done in like case. But what Tower so strong, which by long siege and batterie wil not yeeld: or woman so squeamish, who at length will not be snared, feeling herselfe courted, handled, and amorously wooed by a young Gallant, whose good demeanour, deedes, and pleasant words, haue force to ioyne, not onely two creatures in one, but make two mountaines also to meete by mutuall accord.

Mensola whose hart was soft and tender, as others commonlie of that sexe are, denied him for a time, but in the end, vnable to resist the force of loue, yeelded herselfe into the armes of her Louer, and spake as followeth. My good friend (said shee swetly kissing him) I knowe not what Destinies haue decreed mee to bee thine, and to obey thy will: take therefore thy pleasure (I pray thee) for I yeeld my selfe to thee, against whom I neither haue, nor will haue, power to resist, feeling my hart attaint with desire towards thee, which formerly wounded thee for my sake. Vse then this body, which is thine, as thou best likest, for all power of resistance is fled. That done, I pray thee hast quickly away, for I feare to bee seene and founde of some, chiefelie of my companions, who may come to seeke mee, and whose fellowship I shall lose for euer, if my faulte bee knowne.

Who nowe more content then *Mensola*, embraced by her friend, or more ioyfull then African, at the accorde of his Mistres: Wherefore, prepard to execute their desires,

their

their trauaile was ſo mutual and willingly beſtowed, that Menſola arose with child of a faire ſonne.

Phœbus this while delighting at the ſport of theſe two Louers, beheld them with his fierie beames behind the couart of the Mountaine, which Menſola perceiuing, and beeing on foote againe, ſhooke off the duſt from her white gowne, and importuned Affrican to depart, becauſe ỹ night approched: and ſhewing him one way oppoſite to that ſhe meant to take, ſhe willed him enter that path, whereat the youth was greatly troubled.

Curſed be thou night obſcure and noiſome (ſaide Affrican) enuious of my good, why dooſt thou deſire to let vs of our common delight? Thou onely parts me from my beſt beloued, not knowing when to enioy her company again. The faire *Menſola* ſomewhat ſhamed at the fact, more ioyous notwithſtanding then at the beginning, (as her demeanour gaue euident ſhew) hartilie kiſſed her friend, and ſaid.

What more thou wilt doo, I know not, nor what cauſe of ſtay thou canſt nowe finde, ſeeing thy deſire is accompliſhed. Depart then my ſweet friende I pray thee, ſpeedilie, for thy preſence can warrant mee no ſafetie, and I verilie ſuppoſe, that each beaſt or Bird that ſtirreth, is one of my fellow Nimphes comming in my ſearch. Let it not then grieue thee to depart, ſith thou ſeeſt the imminent daunger hang wholie ouer mee. And this I wiſh, not but that thy ſtaie would content me as thy ſelfe, but I ſee the night approach, & I haue far to trauaile, yet before our parting acquaint me with thy name, and what thou art, that I may vnderſtand whom I ſo affectedly fauour.

Affrican to content his beloued, made known his name, Parents, and place of his aboade, and then louingly embracing each other with like affection, they tooke leaue and departed: but they had not paced many ſteps before they returned to take a freſh farewell, ſo often, and with ſuch

words and demeanour seruing to expresse their mutual affection, that hardlie could pen describe it. After much loue dalliance, notwithstanding in the end they stroke hands, to confirme their promise of returne at that place and time the day following, and so departed.

Affrican tooke the plaine, and Mensola with her Dart in hande, the height of the Mountaine: but pensiue and fraught with diuers thoughts, repenting the fact done, entertained each step almost with bitter and grieuous sighs, yet could she not refraine to returne often, and behold her beloued as hee went, who for his part did the like. Thus conuayed they each other with their eyes, so farre as the length of the way, the darknes of the night, and couart of the great trees letted their sight.

CHAP. XIIII.

¶ Howe Affrican failing of *Mensola* in the Valley of the Lake, (as they had agreed) through despaire slewe himselfe with his owne Dart.

AFfrican repairing to the place where hee had left his owne apparrell, attired himselfe and returned to the house, his counterfaite not espied of any. And although his father Grifon and Alcumena were sore troubled with the long absence of their sonne, yet were they more ioyfull at his safe returne, shewing by his visage more chearefulnes then hee wontedly had done. And seeing them curious to know the cause of his long staie, gaue them iests for payment, to couer his affection, and what hee had done: yet resolued hee so soone as the day appeared, to returne to the Valley, and visite her whom he most desired.

Mensola after her departure from her friend, trauailed along the side of the Mountaine, thinking on that shee had done, and repenting at the second charge, fearing that the offence

offence beeing capitall, and knowne to Diana, her punish-ment ſhoulde bee aunſwerable, and therefore vttered her complaints as followeth.

Ah infortunate wretch that I am, what mercy can I expect of her whom I haue ſo highly offended, by yelding my ſelfe to ſuch oppreſſion? If Venus (ſole cauſer of my ill) in recompence thereof, would giue me preſent death, my miſchiefes would end, and content exceede: but alaſſe, willing to punish me with all rigour, ſhe denies me that fauour, ſo ſhall I languiſh with ſorrow and ſhame, whilſt the poore remainder of my life endureth.

In theſe and ſuch like diſcourſes the Nimph diſcending the Mountaine (when the night with her darke mantle had couered the earth) arriued at the Caue, where ſhe with ſome other Nimphs inhabited. And after ſundry deuiſes of occurrents happened amongſt them, ſhe went to reſt, but no ſleepe could ſhe entertaine at all, ſo fearefull was ſhe, leaſt her fault ſhould be diſcouered. One while reſol-ued ſhe to abandon Diana and her Damſels, to keepe her ſelfe cloſe, and refuſe to goe abroade: Againe the ſedaine remembrance of her friend Affrican daſhed that conceite, ſo that long ſtood ſhe in a manner what to determine. But at length breaking ſilence, ſhe ſoftly ſaid as followeth.

Were my fact knowne to you, (oh my companions) you would admire at my folly, and rightly expell me from your company. And if you made knowne the ſame to Diana, my hap ſhould ſort to that of poore Caliſta, who be-ing oppreſſed by Iupiter, was tranſformed into the vgly ſhape of a fierce and cruell Beare, complaining with hor-rible rearings, when ſhe would vtter her griefe.

Oh happy Nimph, who once forced by the god Shep-heard Mugnon, was conuerted into a Fountaine, and her friend into a Riuer, as yet knowne by their names, both ſlaine by one ſtroke of Diana (as my friend lately told me.) Happy (I ſay) doe I call thee, for that thou feltſt the ſweet

pleaſure

pleasure of thy defloration, and death also at one instant: which fauour my Fates deny me, but prolong my life, to languish in continuall torment,

Diana (it may be) will change my body into some Fountaine Beast, or flying Fowle, or else not daigning me so much good, will transforme me into the forme of some huge and branched Tree, or craggie Rock, as vnworthie hereafter to beare Dart in the chase, seeing I haue defiled my sacred habite, giuen mee of my Parents in honor of the Goddesse.

I well remember (oh Father) that by you I was commaunded to yield all obedience to the lawes and institutions of Diana, and to embrace her followers with mutuall affection: And how afterwards you accompanied me to this Mountaine, not to violate, but to keepe my virginity. You are ignorant of my fault, how I haue broken my sacred vow to the Goddesse, and what anguish and trouble I am brought into: And iustly doe I feare, that my mishap being knowne, will not moue you to pitty me. Great was the sorrow which the Nimph endured: but the day approching, ouer-laden with griefe and watching, she desired sleepe, whereby hartned (as it seemed) she resolued to hold fellowship with the other Nimphs (as before) seeing her fault was yet couart, and vnknowne to any but her friend.

The Nimph Calista (sayd she) was deemed a Virgine, euen of Diana her selfe (although shee were a Goddesse) without suspect, vntill her grosse belly in the bath bewrayed her fault, and shewed she was with child. And (it may be) some of my companions secret faults, far exceede mine in quallity: of vs yet ignorant of their actions, be they deemed Virgins, how sottish then should I be to feare the shadow, before I see the substance? Thus resolued, beholding the Sun-beames glister vpon the earth, she speedily arose, & with Dart in hand, walked towards the Forrest,

not

not minding to approch the place where ſhe loſt her Mayden-head for feare to encounter Affrican, and to be diſcried at the length.

Affrican on the other ſide, more forward in burning affects then before, as ſoone as the day appeared, aroſe, and walked towards the Valley of the Lake, where he had ſported with his Miſtris the day before, hoping to find her, as was accorded betweene them: but comming to the place and not finding her there, he ſuppoſed it was too earlie, and that in time ſhe would come. And the better to behold her a far off whether accompanied, or alone, he went to the top of the Mountaine, where chooſing a place meete to ſee ſuch as entred the Valley, he hid him ſelfe behind a Thicket, and there kept watch vntill the mid day paſſed, without ſight of any creature.

Afterwards, diſcloſing his couart, and ranging to and fro in the Forreſt, dreaming after *Menſola*, reſolued at their ſecret meeting to acquaint her with many things omitted the day before. And ſo knit the knot betweẽ them, that it ſhould after remaine indiſſoluble. And calling to minde the late pleaſure he toke with his Miſtris, and the loue deuiſes paſt betweene them, when he ſaw any faire flower by the way, he cropt it, to preſent it at her comming.

Affrican, thus long wayted, beguiling the time with theſe amorous thoughts, but in vaine: for *Menſola* came not at all. The Sunne then began to decline and hide it ſelfe behind the Mountaine, which greatly troubled Affrican ſeeing the night at hand, and his delight not there. And as one whoſe hope expecting ſome hap, aunſwerable to his will: caſteth in his minde many doubts, that moſt may hinder his deſires, euen ſo did Affrican admire the long ſtay of his beloued.

The night now come, and *Menſolas* abſence conſtrained him to retire diſcontedly to his houſe; yet excuſing her

in his owne conceite, thought happily that encountring some of her companions by the way comming, she was forced vnwillingly to break promise with him: with these and such like conceits he arriued at his house, with full determination to returne early the next morning for feare of failing.

The next, and many other daies following, he still resorted to the Valley of the Lake, to visit her, who nought lesse minded then to come there: (not but that she hartily loued him,) but feare onely that their familiar meetings, should be bewrayed to Diana, forced her to refraine that and all other places of Affricans resort.

This poore abused Youth after many daies and weekes spent, in search of his beloued Mensola: but in vaine, at last became so sad and full of pensiue thoughts, that his naturall strength began to faile him, his fresh and wonted colour to fade, and so plunged in mellancholly passions, that hardlie could men heare hym speake more then a dumbe man.

Affrican one day keeping his Fathers sheepe on the top of the Mountaine, willing to visite the Valley of the Lake where *Mensola* assuredly promised to meete him: left his charge to their owne guiding, and with a Dart in his hand, came to the Fountaine neere where vnto he formerlie enioyed his Mistris. The sight whereof, and the remembrance of his former sweet pleasure, with her (whose presence though hartily wished, he now vnhappily wanted) so enraged him with frantick furie, that he was not Maister of him selfe: but vttered his griefe with such sorrowfull regrets, as the hills and dales by Eccho to his plaints seemed to pitty his mis-fortunes, and with his wofull face beholding the heauens, and his armes folden on his breast, he spake as followeth.

Ah *Mensola* (said hee) why hast thou falsifyed thy fayth, so oft confirmed by oath vnto mee? Thou little regardest

(it

(it ſæmeth) the power of the Gods, and leſſe thy promiſe to thy friend. Haſt thou forgotten, that oft and ſweetly kiſſing mee in this place, thou promiſedſt to returne the day following? How dareſt thou ſo highly offend, ſith the Gods are witneſſes of thy periurie? Well, ſæing thou makeſt no conſcience to deceiue me with thy lies, the performance of my promiſe ſhall manifeſt my conſtancie, and condemne thée of lightnes: to wit, to end mine owne life, if thou eſtrange thy ſelfe from me, wherin (I think) thou moſt delighteſt, els wouldſt thou not refraine his company that is wholie thine, ſo that the wrong thou haſt done me, is onely cauſe of my death. To remember alſo the ouer-ſhort pleaſure I erſt toke with thee neere to the Fountaine, doubles the extremitie of my paſſions, and makes mee languiſh in miſerable woes. But before I begin to act this bloody tragedie, oh you Trees, Plants, Groues, Hearbes, Fountaine, Pond, and Reedes, (faithfull witneſſes of my former delights) behold (I pray you) the deſire I haue to end my miſchiefes and troubleſome trauell.

This ſaide, as a man deſperate and ſenceleſſe, hee fixed his Dart on the brinke of the Riuer, and the yron towards his hart, fully reſolued to caſt himſelfe thereon, and ſo end his life and miſerie at once. And after ſome imprecations to the Gods, his Parents, and lamentably calling *Menſola* to ayde him, and the little Riuer alſo running through that Lake, to vouchſafe his body buriall within his cleere and chriſtall ſtreames, he fell preſently on his Dart, with ſuch force, that the yron appeared at his back, and he tumbled into the Riuer, where hee yelded vppe his ſpirit and blood together.

CHAP. XV.

¶ How *Mensola* feeling herselfe with child, sought counsell at Senadeche, and what comfort she receiued.

THis small Riuer wherin Affrican tumbled, at the head of the Pond, deuided it selfe into two parts, the one running with a calme and pleasant streame towards the house of the good olde Griffon, Father to Affrican, who as then watering his beasts below at the Riuer, espied the water neere to the brinke changed from his natural colour to red, as erst hee had seene it, the day that his Father was slaine. Which so appauled the old man with suddaine feare, that nipt at the very hart, he presently left his Beasts vpon ỹ Riuer banke, and hasted (as his age would suffer him) to the head of the Lake, where hee founde his sonne, one halfe in the Riuer, and the other out, with a Dart pierced through his body.

This sight so troubled his spirits, that mated with extreame sorrow, he well nigh fainted to the ground: but taking hart a fresh, he puld his sonne forth of the water, and beholding this wofull spectacle, distilling from his aged eyes great aboundance of teares, hee vttered his griefe as followeth.

Alas (said he) my sonne, whose hand hath been so cruell, to depriue thee of life, and me of my ioy at once? What cause hast thou giuen to ỹ murtherer to slay thee in a place so dezart? Cursed be the day, the howre, and minute of thy vnhappy arriuall. Oh my Sonne, the sole hope and staffe of mine old age: how desolate hast thou left me by thy vntimelie death? What griefe will this wofull and fatall present bring to thy aged Mother, hopelesse with my selfe of any more children, by reason of our great age. Well then may wee iustly complaine to bee left desolate and without

comfort

comfort of any.

This ſaid, and drawing the Dart out of the breathleſſe body of his ſonne, caſt it deſpightfully to the grounde, and ſaid: Hée that ſtrooke thée into the body of this poore youth, bewraied well his cruell and felloneus minde, but I ſuppoſe it was Diana, as yet not glutted with our blood.

This old mans ſorrow exceeded, ſo that conſtrained to reſt himſelfe by the dead corps of his ſonne, bowing downe his heade ſupported by his knees, long continued his laments with extreame paſſions: but at length, recouering ſomewhat his former force, beheld the mortall Dart, inſtrument of this tragicall act: and vpon better aduiſement knew it to be the ſame that Affrican wontedly chaſed with all, ſuſpecting thereby his ſonne to bee murthered of himſelfe, though ignorant of the cauſe of his diſpaire.

Griffon perceiuing his plaints nought auailed, tooke haſtilie the dead corps of his ſonne vpon his ſhoulders, and (weake as he was) brought him home, & ſhewed to Alcumena the mortall Dart hee had drawne out of the bodie of his ſonne: whereat the wofull Mother growing almoſt deſperate, vttered ſuch ſorrow as could hardly be expreſſed. The time of lamenting paſt, they burned the corps (as the manner of their Country was) and caſt the aſhes into the Riuer, as yet red with the blood of the dead, and what elſe thereof remained, they buried on the banke of the Riuer, from that time called by the name of Affrican.

Now returne we to *Menſola*, who (ignorant of her friends miſfortune) oft haunted the place of his common walke: but in vaine, for too late came phiſicke when life was paſt. His abſence made her admire the ſlow proſecution of his ſute. And deſirous with other Nimphes to ſeeke him in the Forreſt, ſhe much ioyed to be ſeene a farre off, (at leaſt) of her friende, to occaſion a renuing of their former friendſhip. Now was ſhe highly fauoured of the other Nimphes, which made her preſume her fact paſt would be

kept more couart, thinking also to blind the eyes of Diana (as the rest) who deemed her still a Virgine.

Yet did not this subtile dissembling quaile in her the force of her affection towards Affrican, nor lessen her desire to finde him in some secrete corner alone, when importunitie serued: but the remembrance of her former pleasure, caused her throb from her tender breast many deepe and bitter sighes: for feare onely to be espied (cause of both their wracks) and no want of good liking, long forced her to deferre the accomplishment of his will.

As *Mensola* was one day walking in the Forrest in search of her beloued, she arriued at the Vally of the Lake, and earnestly beholding the place where shee had erst tasted the louing sport of Venus, shee began in this manner. Ah my sweet friend (said she) where art thou now becom? Why art thou not heere, to behold with me the place of our former delight, when thou bereftst mee of my hart & maydenhead together. Thou endurest (it may be) sorrow and trauaile for my loue, and I guiltlesse thereof: for though feare onely least our fault should be disclosed, hath restrayned me from all boldnes, to yeeld thee thy wished content, thine am I euer notwithstanding, expecting the benefit of a happy time.

Three Monthes passed, when Mensola supposed her fact was vnknowne: at the end whereof, perceiuing her bellie to swell, by reason of the substance within: her face erst faire, and fresh coloured, to become pale, her body grosse and massie, her raines & sides broad and great, her breasts full fraught and puffed, and the whole, wearie and pensiue, not knowing the cause (as litle experimented in such like matters) was greatly appauled.

Now dwelled there in a sauage Rocke neere to Mensola, a Nimph of foure-score Winters old, expert in Phisicke, and very wise, named Senadeche, to whom Mensola repaired for counsell, and to learne the cause of her euill.

And

And after ſome words paſt betweene them, ſeeing the place and opportunity ſerued, ſhe acquainted Senadeche with the cauſe of her comming, and ſuch accidents as had happened: which being well noted of the old Nimph, ſhe quickly ſuſpected the cauſe, and vehemently ſhaking her head, arguing a diſcontent, ſhe demaunded of *Menſola* whether ſhee had accompanied with man, & if ſhe were not with childe, ſeeing the caſe ſo ſtood that ſhe could no longer conceale it? *Menſola* bluſhed and greatly aſhamed at the words of Senadeche, yet not able to hide the truth from ſo cunning a Phiſition, who coulde geſſe ſo rightly at her Patients diſeaſe, beganne to weepe and lament aboue meaſure, which the old Nimph beholding, thought happily the fault might be done and ſhe not conſenting: pitty therefore moued her to cheere vppe the daunted minde of *Menſola* with theſe ſweet and comfortable words following.

Torment not thy ſelfe my good Daughter, ſayd ſhee, for thou art not the firſt that hath bene ſurpriſed by the ſlight and pollicie of men. In vaine it is to weepe when the matter done cannot bee holpen, nor hid: it reſteth then to prouide for the ſafetie of thy fruit. Tell mee therefore who is the Father of thy child?

Menſola, mated with extremitie of ſorrowe, ſo ſhamed at the matter that ſhe could not lift vp her head, much leſſe aunſwere Senadeches demaund, but wept and lamented aboue meaſure: yet at length, by the importunitie of the other, with a trembling and low voyce mixed with manie deepe ſighes, ſhee recounted the whole matter as it paſſed, and his name & parentage alſo, that wronged her againſt her will.

Senadeche vnderſtanding by this paſſionate diſcourſe, how Menſola was deceaued, and the ſubtile ſnares of Affrican to ſurpriſe her, was more mooued to pittie her then before. And after many admonitions to be better aduiſed afterwards, ſhe promiſed her aide & ſuccour to her power.

Daughter

Daughter (said she) if my aduise may rule thée, thy fault may be so smothered, that when the childe is borne, thou maist be deemed a Virgine still. It resteth then that thou keepe thy selfe close without ranging, as little as thou canst: moreouer, to weare thy garments loose & vngirdled, least thy grosnes appeare. And when nine Monethes (from the day that thou accompaniedst with ỳ youth) shall be expired, thou shalt assuredly haue a childe. Dismay not at the matter, but let mine be the care, who haue plotted a course already, so finely to effect this busines, that none shal perceiue it: (to wit) that so soone as power will serue thée to walke, thou bring hether the child, and leaue me to manage the rest. For I hope to place it where it may be well and secretly nourished. These words greatly cheered the sorrowfull minde of *Mensola*, who wiping her moist eyes and cheeks besprent with teares, replyed as followeth.

My good Mother, I commend me and my cause wholy to your discrete wisedome, knowing that without your ayde, I can no way escape extreame perrill. Let me therfore finde your help in my great extremity, being else secluded from all humaine succour. Goe thy way (sayd Senadeche) assured of that I haue promised, and leaue the charge to me: for I sweare by the whitenes of my aged head, I will not faile thée in this busines.

CHAP. XVI.

¶ How Mensola surprised by Diana, cast her childe into a bush and fled: And how she was transformed into a Riuer, and the child brought to his Parents.

MEnsola, somwhat comforted with the promised ayde of Senadeche, returned to her wonted Caue: and determining to practise their former conclusions, kept her selfe close for many dayes: yet great was the desire she had,

had, to acquaint Affrican with her eſtate, and to renue their former pleaſure, for the better accompliſhment whereof ſhe oft faining to chaſe in the Forreſt, went to the Valley of the Pond, where ſhe firſt loſt the name of a Virgine, to méete her friend ſhe had formerly promiſed: But miſſing of him there, ſhe paſſed the Riuer to viſite Senadeche, and further to deuiſe of her affaires. Fortune was now ſo fauorable to *Menſola*, that her companions perceiued not ſhe was with child, ſéeing her often chaſe in the Forreſt, though of viſage pale, and more beauie then accuſtomably ſhe had béen: yet they nothing leſſe ſuſpected, then that was happened.

Diana who had long time béen abſent from her Nimphs, returned to the Forreſt, to viſite her Floſſolan votaries, who receauing her with great honour and pleaſure, aſſembled them ſelues about her, when ſhe beſt pleaſed to call them: But *Menſola* vnderſtanding of her ariuall, eſtranged her ſelfe as Senadeche gaue her counſell.

The day of child-birth being come, ſhe was deliuered with great paine of a faire Sonne, by the ayde of the Goddeſſe Lucina, who embracing the child in her armes, and kiſſing him, deliuered him to his Mother and departed.

This young boy was maruailous faire, and ſo néere reſembled his Father Affrican, that it gaue great comfort to his ſorrowfull Mother: who gazing at the ſwéete countenance of her babe, and ſuppoſing ſhe beheld the perfect patterne of her friend, delayed to carry him to Senadeche, as it was before concluded.

Diana willing to ſée Menſola, whom ſhe entirely loued, and yet not ſéene ſince her laſt comming, ſuppoſed ſhe had béen ſicke, as her companions reported, and therefore accompanied with fiue of her Damſels, entred the Caue where *Menſola* dwelled, hoping there to finde her, but they were deceaued: for ſhe was gone with her child towards the Riuer not long before their ariuall.

Diana missing whom she sought, went out of the Caue, and called her with a loud shril voyce as she walked in the Woods: but the voice & sight of the Goddesse, so appauled the spirits of *Mensola* with sodaine feare, that hiding her child in the bushes, she fled away (as Death had followed) and shrouded her selfe vnder the shadow of the Wood, but in vaine: for her hiding was not so couart, but Diana espied her, much admiring the cause of her running.

Now froward Fortune, aduerse enemy to the Nimph, adding a second mishap to the former, brought the noyse of the childs crying, to the eares of Diana, who approching the place from whence the crie came, found a faire babe hid among the bushes, whom she commaunded her followers to take vp, much bashed at the manifest fault of *Mensola*, who making semblance not to heare the call of Diana, fled as she had been enraged.

If I bend my bow poore wretch (said the Goddesse) thou wants force to defend the pricke of my dangerous arrow, stay then (I say) thy running, and let thy speech manifest thy case, and who was so presumptuous to deflowre thee, and commit this outrage: that I may take vengeance vpon him aunswerable to his fact. But *Mensola* (it seemed) little regarded what Diana sayd, but hasted so much the faster: and approching the Riuer cast her selfe therein to escape & recouer the other banke: which Diana seeing, to manifest her power consisted not onely in her Bow and deadly Arrowes, coniured the Riuer wherein *Mensola* was, with such sacred spels, that the same (obedient to her Dietie) began to froth, boyle and moue it selfe, in such sort, that the poore Nimph at an instant, felt herselfe melt and consume, as the Snowe before the Sunne beames: so that forth-with leauing her liuely and naturall substance, shee was dissolued wholy into watery moysture, and turned into water. A spectacle very lamentable and marualous to the beholders. Since which time, in perpetuall memo-

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rie of this deede, the Riuer tooke & ſtill retaines the name of *Menſola* vntill this day.

The Nimphes ſtill beholding the Babe, and regarding the treſpaſſe of the Mother, were greatly troubled howe to diſpoſe thereof: but Diana commaunded it to bee brought to Senadeche, dwelling neere at hand, and accompanying the reſt to the Caue of the olde Nimph, declared how ſhe had found the infant in the Buſhes, and tranſformed *Menſola* the Mother thereof, into a Riuer for puniſhment of her fact.

The good old Nimphe hearing the cruell words of the Goddeſſe, bemoaned with teares of pitty the harde chance of *Menſola*, and embracing the child in her armes, ſhee oft kiſſed it with great affection, for Ioue ſhee bore to the Mother, and ſaid.

Sacred Goddeſſe, I well hoped none had knowne of this fault but my ſelfe, which *Menſola* bewraying to me in this place, committed herſelfe wholy to my diſcretion: but ſeeing thou haſt ſo puniſhed the Mother, let the poore Orphants too timely miſhap, (guiltleſſe altogether of her fact) moue thee to pitty, and leaue the charge of his foſtering to me, whoſe Parents dwelling not far hence, will aſſuredly at my requeſt, equal the care ouer him with their owne. Then recounted ſhe to Diana, howe the Youth had deceiued her, and raviſhed her againſt her will, which ſomewhat appeaſed the furie of the Goddeſſe, repenting that (cauſeleſſe) her puniſhment was with ſuch rigour, and committing the child to Senadeches diſpoſing, ſhe then with her company departed.

When Diana was departed, Senadeche conuayed the child to the houſe of the good old Griffon, Father of Affrican, beeing foretolde by *Menſola*, the name, parentage, and dwelling of the Youth that deflowred her: and finding Alcumena at the doore, ſpake to her with a ſtill and milde voyce, ſaying: My good Mother, let not (I pray thee) the

cause of my comming, which I meane to acquaint thee with, nor yet my speeches ought trouble thee, and thou shalt know the Parents of this infant here inwrapped, and the manner of his birth. Then vnswadled she the child, who moued, (as it seemed) by very instinct of nature, beholding his Grand-mother, began to laugh, and stretch abroad his tender limbes with great pleasure.

Alcumena listening to the Nimphs discourse, of the loue betweene Affrican and Mensola, and how her young Nephue discouered in the bush, was chiefe cause of his Mothers mishap, and that Diana had also sent him to her to be nourished, was neuer before more ioyfull: wherefore imbracing him in her armes, shee oft kissed him with tender affection, and brought him to Griffon, as the reposing himselfe in the Garden, and told him what she had heard: who curiously regarding the face of the childe, so neere resembling Affrican, was easily induced to credite her report, reioycing greatly that Fortune had yet fauoured him with hope of succession. Wherefore, after due thankes to Senadeche, he accepted the child for his owne, with promise of no lesse care for his fostering, then formerlie he had for his sonne.

That doone, Senadeche returned to her Caue, leauing the good old folks excedingly comforted, for that the Gods pitying their age, had stirred them vp newe and vnexpected issue.

The fame of Mensolas transformation, was quickly bruted in the neighbour Countries about, and amongst the Damsels of Diana, which strooke such terror into their harts, that they feared to offend the Goddesse with the like. But Griffon and Alcumena hauing the child in their keeping, little regarded the anger of Diana: and naming him Prineo, they caused him to be well fostered, so that in few yeeres, he appeared of beautie excellent, of shape and feature so exquisite and perfect, as erst that Countrey neuer

bred

bredde the like, and ſuch as Nature herſelfe might better counterfaite then ſecond. Beſides, his mind was ſubiect to no baſe but good and honeſt thoughts, each part retayning his due proportion, ſo ſeemely and propper, as might well haue rauiſht the minds of the beholders. Moreouer, of wit, hee was pregnant, of courage hardie and bolde, with a ſeuere and graue countenaunce, promiſing on his part, ſome great good fortunes to enſue.

When Pruneo had attained the age of xviij. yeeres, his beautie and perfection cauſed the Grand-father to ſuſpect his young ſonne would tread the ſteps of his auncеſters, in affecting the Nimphes of Diana. And acquainting him with the infortunate death of his Father African, and the tranſ-formation of Menſola his Nimphall mother into the Riuer, as yet bearing her name, aduiſed him to beware of that angry Goddeſſe, and not to follow, nor any way to affect her Damſels: els might hee expect no better ſucceſſe then the other. And withall, gaue him ſuch ſage admonitions, and counſell, as beſt fitted for the gouernment of his young and tender age.

CHAP. XVII.

¶ How Pruneo Sonne of African and *Menſola* deſcended of the Linage of Prince Turnus which then ruled Italy, for his vertues was onely elected Gouernour of the land of Floſſolan.

IN the Cittie of Thebes, and Countrey of Greece, a Cittizen of mighty perſonage called Atlant, and ſirnamed Turnus, (whoſe aſpiring minde, thirſting for ſole gouernment of that Citty) aſſembled many raſh and heady Youths, and aroſe in armes to vſurpe the ſignorie of that Region: but reſiſtance was ſuch, that after many broiles and much ſlaughter on both ſides, he was com-

compelled with his small remnant of Souldiers, to flie the land Gregeoise, with whom he resolued to seeke new dwelling in forren Regions, seeing his owne Country denied of gouernment.

And herein did Fortune so fauour him, that approching the confines of Dalmatia: he tooke (by force) Emblea one of the chiefe Townes, and best stored with treasure and riches of all that Country: by reason whereof hee reinforced his armie, and made good prouision as well of victuals as munition also, and other necessaries for the warres: But seeing the whole Country vp in armes, and ready to reuenge the wrong & spoile he had done: departed thence also away with great speede. And passing the high Regions of Bossina, Croatia, Austria, Bauiera, and the Country of the Swisses, wherein making little stay, for that he found the people, of manners rude, warlike strong, mutinous, and ready in armour to resist him, he discended into Italy, the Climate whereof beeing wholsome, good, and fertill, as yet vnpeopled, and barren of Townes, Castles, or other fortification, gaue him better hope of ensuing good, and with small resistance ouer-ranne the Country, so that in short time he found him selfe Lord and Maister of the whole Land.

Now were his people troubled and wearie by long and incessiue trauaile, which caused him search out some place, meete to build a Citty in, the strength whereof might promise him safety that Winter, and for his treasure and iewels also in his absence whilst he proceeded in the full conquest of Italy.

And among others he made chiefe choyce of the Mountaine of Flosiolan, as a place best fitting his purpose, wher enclosing in a wall the houses there found, on the top of the Mountaine, he made thereof a royall Pallace for him selfe: and in the plaine below, he also builded many houses, as well for lodging of his armie, as for the people of

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the Country there minding to inhabite. That done, he let compaſſe the ſame, with a ſtrong and high wall, ioyning to the Caſtle on both ſides, and called it after the name of the Mountaine, the Towne of Floſſolan.

After he had admitted all that would come there to inhabite, diſtributing to each one the Land about, (as ſeemed moſt mæte vnto him) retaining the Foreſts, Mountains, and Riuers, for his owne pleaſure and delight: his curteous demeanor to his Subiects was ſuch, that cauſed this Towne to be in very ſhort time well ſtored with people, faire, ſtrong, and furniſhed with many goodly buildings: The inhabitants whereof, chiefely the people of Prince Turnus, chaſing in the Woods the wild and ſauage beaſts, found happily the Nimphs of Diana diſperſed here and there in the Foreſts, whō willing or nilling they brought home to their new Citty, and entertained them as their wiues: ſome others eſcaping, fled to other Countries for ſuccour: others hid them ſelues in the moſt obſcure places of the Foreſts, not daring to appeare out of their Caues and ſecret holes. And ſo ended this ſuperſtitious Nimphall order.

THE Prince Turnus, aduertiſed of many that inhabited the Mountaines and Dezerts there-about, and durſt not yeeld themſelues without his princely aſſurance, let publiſh by Edict, that all ſhoulde by a day prefired, appeare before him, with promiſe of like entertainement to thoſe that woulde, as his owne Cittizens, & ſafety to their goods, without wrong of any, and thoſe that would not, he gaue to pillage of ſuch as could craze them.

This Edict publiſhed in all places of that Countrey, came to the eares of olde Griffon, who reſoluing to keepe himſelfe, family, and goods in ſafetie, acquainted Alcumena therewith, and ſo conuaide themſelues and houſhold to Floſſolan.

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The Prince beholding this old Griffon with his young nephue, and discoursing with him of diuers matters, found him of such wisedome, modestie, and ripe iudgement, that he made him of his Counsell, and entertained Pruneo into his seruice: and so highly esteemed the olde man, that no matter of state passed, wherin his counsaile was not vsed, and the experience of his white and aged head swaied not: to the good content of the Prince, and benefit of his Countrey.

As opportunitie serued, this good old man recounted to the Prince his mis-fortunes happened by occasion of Diana, the birth of young Pruneo his Nephue, the death of Affrican his sonne, and trans-formation of the Nimph, whereat the Prince greatly wondred, but much more at Pruneo, who as his yeeres, so his ciuill honestie and good demeanour increased, that for vertue onely he was fauoured of all men.

At the Forrest chace, he excelled all for shooting with the Bow, fierce casting of the Dart, and all other weapons els, that time denied his equall. For braue managing his horse, and breaking a speare after that Country manner, hee likewise excelled. To conclude, so forwarde was his will, bent to all vertuous and true honors exercises, that caused him to be feared of many, loued and admired of all. Fortune moreouer added so fauourable occasion to increase his fame and renowne, by reuolt of a certaine towne nere vnto them, that being sent among others by the Prince, to suppresse the power of the Rebels, and reduce thē to theyr former quiet & obedience, hee demeaned himselfe with such vertue, that first mounting the height of the walls, hee there fought so valiantly, that his prowesse onely recouered the Cittie.

This seruice was highly esteemed of the Prince, so that in short time after, hee gaue Tyronea (onely Daughter to one of the Princes of that country) in mariage to Pruneo,

and

and the whole Country beſides, lying betweene Mugnon and Menſola, and made him chiefe Gouernour in his abſence of all the Country, a dayes iourney circuite.

Pruneo thus aduaunced by marriage, more increaſed in all vertuous actions then before, and in memory of his good fortunes, he cauſed a Temple to be built in honor of Apollo, and a Pallace alſo, well ſeated and high, from whence he might well diſcouer the Plaine, and the Country about, which by good manuring became very fertile and pleaſant. In this place he more delighted then ẏ whole Land beſides, and often viſited the Riuer named after his Mother, Menſola, where conferring with ſundry ſpirits, aunſwering in a cleere & intellectable voyce, full of ſighes and plaints, he got knowledge aſwell of things paſt, as of future times alſo.

The Prince Turnus, thirſting for the ſole gouernment of the whole Lande, betweene the Seas Adriarque and Thyrren, intending alſo to paſſe afterward into Sicilia, aſſembled his Armie diſperſed in diuers Countries, and placed his wife and two ſonnes in a ſtrong Caſtell, ſeated on the top of the Mountaine bordering vppon Piſa: and diſpoſing of other the affaires of his Land, (as matter and time required) iournied towards Rome: where after many notable victories obtained againſt the inhabitants of thoſe Regions, reposing himſelfe in the Country of Calabre and Naples, and there making preparation of Shippes for the Seas, he died. Whereupon, his Armie brake vp, and retired into their owne Countries.

The eldeſt ſonne of Atlant, named Turnus, being but ſixe yeeres old, began his raigne, and long ruled (as King) that Country in great peace & quiet: and (as ſome write,) gaue it the name of Tuſcan, frō whom that Turnus which after combatted in liſts royall with Duke Æneas, before the Cittie of Lorence, and was there ſlaine for the loue of Lauinia, was rightly diſcended.

CHAP. XVIII.

¶ Of the linage of Pruneo, the first beginning of the Florentines, and by whom the Cittie of Florence was repaired.

After the death of Atlant, Pruneo being left Gouernour of Flossolan, ruled the Country with so great quiet, that hee was reputed sole Lorde and Maister of the Lande. Griffon his Grand-father, ouer-laden with age, and full of yeeres, with Alcumena also dyed, and were honourably buried in the Temple of Apollo. Pruneo with his wife Tyronea, liued long together with great content, of whom hee begat tenne sonnes, endued with such gifts and perfection, as Nature seemed to shewe in them the very depth of her cunning. These sonnes likewise sawe hee bestowed in marriage to great and noble personages: so that this linage increasing daily, as well in number and riches, as in power and soueraigntie ouer their neighbours, at length Pruneo also dyed, leauing to his subiects and friends great cause of sorrow, and was interred with all funerall pompe in the Tombe of his auncesters. In reuerent regard of whom, his eldest sonne was elected for the soueraigne Captaine and Gouernour of the Land.

Long time after, the Romains transferring the rule of their kingdome to a publike gouernment of Senators, thirsted for the Empire of the worlde, namely, of Italie, where obtaining many famous victories with their great and populous Armie, at length laide siege to the Cittie of Flossolan, as the chiefe Cittie of all that Country, which was so well fortified and stored with strong, stoute, and valiant people, that the enemies of long time profited little: yet in the end were they vanquished, their Cittie taken, and

and the walls thereof raſed euen with the ground. Such as eſcaped, fled, and ſhrowded themſelues in the moſt obſcure Caues, and places of the Forreſts and Mountaines adioyning.

And for that the Romains ſuſpected thoſe fugitiues (after their departure) would returne, and repaire the ruins of their Citty, and ſo being refortified, would require new force to ſuppreſſe them againe: they placed in a Caſtell neere to Floſolan, a garriſon of Horſemen, and legionarie ſouldiers, to repell theyr force, and let their aſſemblies. And moreouer, to giue ſome comfort to the poore, deſtitute of dwelling, they builded another Cittie neere to the former, and faſt ioyning to their Caſtell, wherein theyr garriſon lay, and proclaimed in all Countries about, that each one that would, ſhould come and inhabite this new Citty, in all liberty and ſafetie.

The Floſolans hidde in the Mountaine and Forreſt Caues, hearing of the Romaine proclamation, bereft of all hope and power to reſtore their Cittie of Floſolan, making vertue of neceſſitie, came to the newe Citty of the Romains, and were curteouſly receiued: ſo that in ſhort time, the moſt part of the Cittie was peopled with the Nobilitie of Floſolan, by reaſon whereof, they gaue to the Cittie the name of Florence, as inhabited by the people of Floſolan.

NOW the memorable vertue and wiſedom of Prunco, cauſed his linage to be held in great honour and authoritie among theſe Cittizens: which Cittie long time increaſing, as well in multitude of people, as in great aboundance of riches and treaſure alſo: within the ſpace of a hundred yeeres was reputed the place of moſt worth within the Tuſcan Region, and in that flouriſhing eſtate continued, vntill the Chriſtian faith (beeing planted in diuers Countries and places,) the almighty God in his iuſt

iudgement, to punish mans sinnes, stird vp a cruell enemie and Tirant called Attila: who with a mighty armie inuading the Gothes, sacked many strong Citties, burned Townes, and slaughtering in the Country of Almaine, and other Realmes, where he passed with most cruell torments, an infinite number of Christians, at length came into Italy, where he likewise exercised his more then brutish cruelty: And girding the Citty of Florence with a strong seege, he sacked the same with most blody slaughter, putting the inhabitants with their Citty to fire and sword: yet for that it behoued Attila to haue some place of strength, for safe keeping of his munition, he repaired some of the ruinous wals of Florence, and let build below in the Valley, sundry houses before burned. He repaired also the wast wals of Flossolan, where the inhabitants remayned in like former securitie, whilest Attila went to subdue the Romaine Empire, and the whole earth besides euen to the Sea.

The Affricans discended of Pruneo, were ioyfull to returne to their ancient Patrimony: wherefore assembling themselues together, they hasted towards Flossolan, which before they had builded with great puissance: and seeing the Citty peopled with sundry Nations, they refused to dwell there, but chose the top of the Mountaine adioyning, where they let build a strong Castell, and fortified themselues, to resist their enemies mallice.

This noble Linage grew long, and increased, by reason of the Romaines great warres and enemies els wher, which letted them, for troubling with their great and populous armie, such as were far remote from them.

Afterwards Charlemaine the great Emperour, returning from the stalling of Pope Adrian in his See, aduanced some of the Affricans to great rule and dignity in Florence, and by long succession were puissant and honorable Cittizens. Other some gouerned Flossolan, and the whole

Country

Country about, retayning ſtill the chiefe place and title of that Land.

Moreouer when Charles the Emperour came to ayde the ſaid Adrian, againſt Diſederas King of Lombardy, and Arcaſſes Duke of Bouient, hée together with the Pope, greatly augmented the priuiledges of the Affricans, in regard of their ayde and ſuccour giuen to the Church, and many other notable ſeruices, (as ſome approued Authors, and ancient haue declared.

Thus wearied with long ſailing toſſed to and fro vpon the ſurging billowes, I will now direct my bulged ſhip, to his wiſhed Hauen of reſt. Ceaſe then my dulled pen, and repoſe thy ſelfe, with this content, that my great trauaile in many ſtrange Countries hath diſcouered by thee, the of-ſpring of this noble Affrican Linage: and that I haue obeyed ſuch as had power to commaund and diſpoſe of me, and my actions.

Séeing now this worke is ended, reaſon wils due thanks be giuen him, who increaſing my force, and guiding my vnderſtanding, enforced me to write this amorous diſcourſe. It is loue onely I meane, and to whom I will be thankfull, and excuſe me alſo towards him, who hath the honour and protection of my labour.

Oh then mighty Cupid (who by vertue of thy golden bow, haſt ſubdued the other Gods to thy will) and whoſe deuine power no humaine hart can reſiſt: let my whole care (I pray thee) be deuoted to thy ſeruice, whoſe force effects each amorous thought, and giueth peace or warres to thy Seruants at thy pleaſure.

Thou haſt power to reuiue a hart buried in the pit of ſloth and cowardiſe, to ſoften the moſt hard, and obdurate things, and to make the ſlow forward and bolde. Thou canſt reſtore force, and decaied hope, and make ioyfull the hart ſubiect to melancholly paſſions. My faith and obedience thou likewiſe knowſt, at thy commaund, to write

this amorous History, whose vertue hath bound me to her will. Take then in worth this small labour, and defend it from the hands of base and vile persons, which knowe thée not nor thy power, and denie them to reade it, that desire not to know thée. And why? Because such precise and carping momes, will readily blame and reprooue this or oft else, how praise worthy or faultlesse so euer: But to each good and gentle minde aspecting vertue, and willing to become thy vassailes, permit to sée and reade, for their better content. These will not impugne that whereof thou art the subiect: but receaue gladly thy works, with such thanks and praise, as thy obedient Seruants wontedly haue, and such also as I now giue, whereunto let it please thée to aunswere.

Welcome my faithfull Seruants, who delight in my pleasure, and by your amorous works, manifest my power to the simple, and doe me a great seruice. Reason wils me to estéeme (as best fitting my Dietie) that which you present me, well hoping this little Booke shall serue for part of the whole work, which comming will much more be welcome: and that I séeme not ingrate or forgetfull of your good seruice. Liue and rest wholy in my fauor, your contents will I giue you, to embrace that you most desire, and at all times be ready to further your likings, mine eares still open to your praiers, and my hand forward to effect your desires, whereof be assured as if my words were an Oracle. Behold héere the aunswere of Cupid, to them that liue vnder his obeasance, and thankfully acknowledge his fauour.

And you faythfull Louers, to whom this Treatise is sent, protect it also, against the mallice of such as busie them selues to maligne and mock thereat: not because the same is worthy your sight or estimation: but in regard of Cupids promise by deuine Oracle to his followers.

And if by Fortune (my little Booke) thou hap to her hands,

hands, who Camelion like hath oft changed to the ſhape of ſundry obiects. Tell her (if ſhe ſcorne thée) that Eſope the Fabulous Poet hath long ſince in his Apologie deciphered her nature, writing of a dogg ſhut in a ſtable, who heard his Maiſter (at his departing) ſay, that ſtore of féeding he had left in the Cratch for his worke Oxen: and for that the dogge could not find what his gluttenous mind deſired: he would not ſuffer the poore trauailed beaſts to approch their féeding, as vnwilling that others ſhould taſt of that ſauoured not after his owne appetite. Let her know further, and other detracting tongues alſo, that if my couert writing may not content them, my plainenes héereafter will far leſſe pleaſe them. And thou ſhalt ſée that feare onely, leaſt their faults ſhould be pried into (though they denie thée entertainment) will cauſe them (at leaſt) to let thée paſſe in quiet.

Thus endeth Maiſter Iohn Bocace to his Floſſolan.

Data fata ſecutus.

Histories in this Collection.

Pheander, The Maiden Knight.
Tragosa & his 3 sons. 1st & 2d. pte
Ornatus & Artesia.
Titana & Theseus.
Dorastus & Faronia.
Cleocryton & Cloriana.
Affrican & Mensola.

7.